Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. September 1878.

CONFIDENTIAL.

F.O. (~~8726.~~) 8752

424

PART XXVIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

73

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. September 1878.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XXVIII.

No. 1.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 76. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July* 16, 1878.

ON the 14th instant I had the honour to receive a telegram from Mr. Secretary Cross to the following effect:—

"Have you found out whether the accounts of outrages made by the Cretan Provisional Government, as contained in the inclosure of your despatch No. 71 of the 30th ultimo, have any foundation?

"We presume that your colleagues and yourself have not failed to press on the authorities the exemplary punishment of the battalion concerned in these events, as . . . has no authority . . . . inflicted it.

"How does it happen that you did not earlier investigate and report the accounts of these outrages? If the statements of the criminal conduct of the regular soldiers are well founded, you cannot express too strongly or too soon the abhorrence and indignation of Her Majesty's Government."

I must begin by expressing to your Lordship my deep regret that I had not immediately proceeded to the scene of the outrages complained of, in order at once to set at rest all doubt as to their reality. I was in the first instance deterred from doing so by the panic at Canea itself, which followed the fighting in Apokorona, as I did not think it prudent to absent myself from the town for a single day when the alarm of the Christians was at its height. Every subsequent account that arrived only confirmed the news of the cruelty practised by the troops, which seemed to be admitted by the Governor-General himself. As I had the honour to report in my despatch of the 24th ultimo to Sir A. H. Layard, a copy of which was sent to your Lordship, as soon as tidings of the proceedings of the troops in Apokorona came to my ears I went to Costaki Pasha and remonstrated most strongly with his Excellency, who there and then dictated a letter to the Commander-in-chief ordering him to recall the Bashi-Bazouks. That letter seemed to bring Salih Pasha to his senses, as he gave orders for their return, and fighting was not again renewed. Returning straightway to my office, I wrote the Governor-General a strong letter, tantamount to a protest against the proceedings of the troops; but, on reflecting that his Excellency regretted them as much as myself, and had done all in his power to prevent them, I kept it back, which I should not have done had there been the slightest attempt on his part to extenuate the gravity of the occurrences. Similarly the recall of Salih Pasha, which occurred at the same time, and the irritation which that recall created among the Mussulman populace, made me feel that it was unwise at such a moment to add to the excitement already existing by demanding the punishment of the guilty battalion; nor, indeed, was Costaki Pasha himself in a position to do so, seeing that his unpopularity with the army generally had risen to a dangerous height.

During these events my colleagues had limited themselves to expressing to the Vali their regret at the sad events that had occurred.

Immediately on the receipt of the telegram of Mr. Secretary Cross I waited on the Vali, and told his Excellency that I was instructed to express the abhorrence and indignation of Her Majesty's Government at the criminal conduct of the Turkish regular troops, and to demand the trial and exemplary punishment of the battalion concerned. The following day his Excellency sent to inform me that he demanded from Ali Haidar Pasha the punishment of the Acca battalion concerned in these outrages, and that he had replied that, inasmuch as the soldiers had not committed the deeds they were accused of while he was in command, it was no business of his to bring them to trial. On receiving this answer the Vali telegraphed for instructions to Constantinople.

On the day that I received Mr. Secretary Cross' telegram I replied that the accounts of the outrages committed by the troops were substantially true, and that I would telegraph more fully on the morrow. Having in the interval communicated to his Excellency the Governor-General the stern rebuke of Her Majesty's Government, with the demand for the punishment of the guilty battalion, on the following day I informed Mr. Secretary Cross of my having done so, of the Commander-in-chief's demurring to take action, and of the Vali's appeal to the Porte for instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of four despatches which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, (1) describing the state of the three villages in Apokorona ruined by Turkish troops; (2) annexing a translation of a petition of the Cretan General Assembly, praying for England's mediation with the Porte that a new form of government be granted to the island; (3) acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's telegrams about the punishment of Turkish soldiers guilty of outrages against Christians; and (4) reporting the readiness of the insurgents to come to terms with the Porte, and the great danger of serious troubles if the pacification of Crete be not speedily accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July* 17, 1878.

REFERRING to my last despatch, in which I gave some account of the cruelties practised by regular troops on non-combatants of both sexes in Apokorona, I have the honour to add some particulars as to the state in which I found the village of Armènous, where the outrages in question occurred. This village, containing about 130 houses, twenty of which were the dwellings of Mussulmans, was more or less ruined and plundered, and twenty-five houses burnt, as well as all the corn in the threshing-floors. When I was there on the 13th instant, none of the Christian inhabitants had returned, but I had the good fortune to fall in with a certain Hussein Boy, who is the largest proprietor in the village, being the owner of several houses and much irrigated land, and whose losses are consequently very heavy. This man told me that he was indignant at the destruction caused by his countrymen and the troops, because the Christians had, during the six months' absence of himself and his co-religionists, faithfully respected their houses and property, and had for greater security stored in their own houses the doors and windows belonging to them. In return for those services he had promised to secure their property from harm, and not having been able to fulfil his promise, he said he was ashamed to see them again. His statements tallied with what the Christian inhabitants had told me on the occasion of my passing through their village a month before, when, in drawing my attention to the ruinous and neglected look of the Mussulmans' houses, they informed me that they had taken the precaution to take away and store their doors and windows lest Christian insurgents from distant places should destroy them. The latter had defaced the mosque, which the natives of the village much deplored. Indeed, I have generally observed that the damage done to Moslem dwellings in mixed villages has been rarely the work of the inhabitants themselves, but of the roughs among the insurgents, the consequences of whose acts do not not fall on themselves but on the villagers.

I passed by the village of Neo Chorio, and found nearly every house burnt, while the village of Tsivara, the first of the three villages attacked, was reported to me by the Mussulman witnesses as completely ruined. Much of the damage, however, was probably caused by the cannonading it underwent.

I take the present opportunity of correcting two immaterial inaccuracies which occur in my last despatch. In giving the evidence of the girl whose parents had been burnt, I stated that two soldiers had forced an entry into her house and had first shot her parents. I ought to have said that three soldiers had entered, and that after having shot her mother, they dispatched her father with blows of a knife or bayonet. I make this correction at once lest it should be said, in case an official inquiry be subsequently held, that the girl had prevaricated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July* 21, 1878.

I HAVE just received a letter signed by the Provisional Government of the insurgents and eighty-three members of the General Assembly, in which, finding themselves deceived in the hope of Crete being annexed to Greece, they pray that Her Majesty's Government would mediate in their favour with the Porte for the granting of a new form of government for the island.

Having, from a fond trust in the promises of Greece, rejected a month ago England's offer of mediation made for this very object, they now hope that another chance may be given them of retrieving their lost advantages. Herewith I have the honour to inclose a translation of their letter, the drift of which I propose telegraphing to your Excellency to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

The Provisional Government to Consul Sandwith.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul, *Campous, le 20 Juillet*, 1878.

L'ASSEMBLÉE Générale est dès à présent informée que toutes ses espérances pour une solution de la question Crétoise, conforme aux aspirations nationales ont été, dans la nouvelle phase des affaires Orientales, pitoyablement démenties. Le peuple Crétois, se fondant sur des considérations qu'il est inutile d'exposer, pensait qu'il était justifié à attendre du Congrès toute autre décision que celle qui a été prise.

Nous avons eu la preuve éclatante que le Règlement Organique de 1869 pendant les dix années où il a été en vigueur, est absolument incapable d'assurer la tranquillité et le progrès du pays, et qu'il protège mille injustices et mille abus. Ce serait d'inviter la Crète à se préparer sous peu pour de nouvelles insurrections et à de nouveaux désastres que de la renvoyer au dit règlement. A coup sûr des intérêts supérieurs, dont nous ne sommes pas à même de juger l'importance, ont exigé que la Crète reste partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman. Toutefois il nous est impossible d'admettre qu'il existe des intérêts justifiés à exiger que le peuple Crétois soit condamné à subir un système Gouvernemental, qui, sans parler des souffrances passées, a été cause dans ces derniers mois de tant de larmes et de tant de sang versé. Il est impossible que le peuple Crétois accepte de nouveau, volontairement, un régime tel, dont le résultat serait de le plonger de nouveau dans la terrible situation où il se trouve aujourd'hui.

Considérant cette situation, l'Assemblée Générale, interprète fidèle des sentiments

du pays, à décidé aujourd'hui à l'unanimité de demander la haute médiation du Gouvernement Britannique auprès de la Sublime Porte afin de faire accorder à la Crète une nouvelle forme de Gouvernement conforme aux besoins du pays.

L'Assemblée Générale en remettant le sort du pays aux soins bienveillants de l'Angleterre, a le ferme espoir qu'elle sera entendu.

Déjà dans le passé, mais spécialement dès le début de la crise actuelle, le Gouvernement Anglais a montré constamment un grand intérêt en notre faveur, et a réussi à diminuer les mille espèces de ruines dont notre pays était menacé. C'est pourquoi nous avons l'espoir que, à l'heure qu'il est, le Gouvernement Anglais se chargera d'un œuvre digne de sa haute position et de son humanité, en assurant la tranquillité et la bonne administration du peuple Crétois.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président,
(Signé) C. MITZOTAKIS.
Les Vice-Présidents,
ST. MAGRAKIS.
V. VLASTOS.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
TH. STAVRIDAKIS.
Les Membres,
(Suivent 83 signatures.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July* 22, 1878.

ON the 15th instant I had the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram asking me if I had been able to ascertain whether there was any truth in the accusations of cruelty brought by the Provisional Government against the Turkish troops mentioned in my despatch No. 78. To this I replied the same day that they were substantially true, and that I had expressed the indignation of Her Majesty's Government at the acts committed by the regular troops, demanding the trial and punishment of the offending battalion, and that as the new Commander-in-chief demurred to taking action, the Vali had telegraphed for instructions.

I had taken the steps announced in the above telegram in accordance with telegraphic instructions from Mr. Secretary Cross, with the result therein related. On the 18th instant your Excellency's telegram of the previous day reached me, stating that very urgent orders had been telegraphed by the Grand Vizier to the local authorities for the severe punishment of the regular troops guilty of having committed outrages upon the Christians, and that I should let your Excellency know whether measures were being taken to put them in force. I immediately sent Mr. Vice-Consul Moozzo to make inquiries on the subject, and the Vali frankly confessed that as yet no instructions had been received, but he begged me to wait a little longer before telegraphing to your Excellency. The next day (the 19th) Costaki Pasha called upon me and stated that as yet the instructions were not forthcoming, but he earnestly requested that I would wait till the morrow before communicating with your Excellency. On that day (the 20th) he sent word to say that he had received a telegram inquiring into what had occurred at the village of Arménous and what steps had been taken. To this his Excellency replied by giving an epitome of the occurrences, and he tells me that he expects further instructions immediately. Hereupon I lost no time in telegraphing to your Excellency that the authorities had not received orders for the punishment of the troops guilty of outrages against Christians, but that merely a telegram inquiring about these outrages had been received.

Costaki Pasha told me in confidence that he had already sent several telegrams relating all that had passed in Apokorona, notwithstanding which the Government asks for information as if they had been left in ignorance of the whole events. His Excellency evidently dislikes to have to answer in the negative the questions which I sometimes put him as to his having received instructions on this or that subject, as it almost invariably happens that, although the Grand Vizier declares having sent orders, no such orders have been received; and on the other hand it seems almost certain that many of the Vali's telegrams do not reach his Highness, or that he is too busy to attend to them. His Excellency added that he had been endeavouring to induce the military authorities

to appoint a Commission to inquire into the conduct of the soldiers during the late campaign, but hitherto without success.

With reference to the destruction of the property of Christian villagers in two districts south of Candia, mentioned in my despatch of the 14th instant, the Vali has received a report from the Mutessarif of Candia, stating that six villages were plundered and partially ruined, and that the two companies of Bashi-Bazouks guilty of this conduct had been disbanded and were to undergo their trial. The number of villages mentioned may well enough correspond with the 250 families stated by Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherinos as having been spoiled, who besides gave a list of six or seven villages pillaged.

The day before yesterday news was received by Costaki Pasha that the Mussulmans of Rethymo were destroying the Christian villages in that neighbourhood, uprooting the vineyards, and cutting down the fruit and olive trees. Finding themselves deceived in the promises given them a fortnight ago by the new Commander-in-chief and Admiral Hussein Pasha, as mentioned in my despatch of the 8th instant, they now visit their disappointment on the Christians. Costaki Pasha demanded that more troops should be sent to repress these disorders, and yesterday Colonel Studdy, an English officer in the Turkish service, left for Rethymo with half a battalion of regular soldiers. It is to be feared, however, that their presence will not check the evil, because Ali Haidar Pasha openly disapproves the policy of his Excellency, and has advised him to dismiss the Mutessarif of Rethymo if he hopes to restore tranquillity, and in choosing Colonel Studdy to conduct the troops he has chosen a man who is a zealous advocate of the "root and branch" method of extirpating the insurrection.

I had the honour to receive early this morning another telegram from your Excellency, dated yesterday, stating that the Grand Vizier had again assured you that his Highness had himself sent orders the day before yesterday for the punishment of the troops guilty of outrages against Christians. On my informing the Vali of this he assures me that no other telegram has been received on this subject except that already referred to in this despatch, and from the date of that it must be the one mentioned by his Highness the Grand Vizier. I shall therefore telegraph to your Excellency again informing you of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July* 22, 1878.

SINCE I had the honour of writing to your Excellency by last week's post the news has arrived here of the decision given by Congress on the political future of this island. It has had a tranquillizing effect upon the Mussulman inhabitants, but has thrown the insurgent chiefs into profound despondency. There had been all along an uneasy feeling among the bulk of the Christians themselves that in insisting upon the union of the island with Greece their leaders had been running counter to the will of Europe, and it was with great regret that they had seen them reject the proffered mediation of England. The General Assembly and the Provisional Government elected by them had fairly enough represented the popular feeling during the earlier months of the present troubles, but from the moment that they consented to accept the regular pay accorded them by Greece, neither they nor the military chiefs could pretend to hold an independent position, and at the time of my last two visits it was easy to see that the people had lost much of the confidence formerly reposed in their representatives. At the very moment when the multitude longed to make themselves heard and to accept the mediation of England, they found themselves without a voice, which had been hired to give utterance to the wishes of a foreign Power. It is not unnatural, therefore, that there should be a great revulsion of feeling against the governing body, and even against Greece itself, which has lured them on to the brink of ruin. The news, news, moreover, of the acquisition by Her Majesty's Government of the Island of Cyprus produced a feeling of bitter disappointment amongst a large number, who had somehow hoped that such a lot might have been in store for them, and accordingly I received several letters from influential insurgents, assuring me that I had but to give the signal and the English flag would be raised from one end of the island to the other.

I promptly nipped this feeling in the bud, as I had been obliged to do on two former occasions within the past two years and a half, and I acted similarly when it was intimated to me a few days ago that many Mussulman landowners were in favour of the same idea. I had the honour to advise your Excellency of this movement by my telegram of the 19th instant, and of my having put a stop to it.

The Cretans, finding themselves face to face with the Ottoman Government and the physical force which that Government can still bring to bear against them, are anxious to protect themselves behind the only Power which has shown any willingness to stand between them and their offended rulers. Impressed by this feeling the Provisional Government and the General Assembly have unanimously drawn up a petition praying for the mediation of Her Majesty's Government that a new form of government be granted them in conformity with the wants of the country. Of this petition I have had the honour to annex a translation to my despatch of yesterday's date, and I also yesternight telegraphed its contents to your Excellency.

The insurgents are thus eager to close with the offer which, under the influence of foreign counsels, they thoughtlessly rejected five weeks before, and they are so far humbled as to be ready to accept any terms which may terminate the present unhappy struggle, and at the same time promise some amelioration in the government of the island. It is of the utmost importance that measures should be immediately taken for putting an end to the present state of things, or there will be great danger of a frightful civil war ensuing. The Mussulmans of this half of the island have now been pent up in the garrison towns and in the narrow territory contiguous to them for the last nine months; they have seen their grain crops either eaten down by cattle or appropriated by the Christians; and they have only been kept from starvation by a scanty supply of barley doled out by the authorities. Their grapes and figs are now ripening for the benefit of the Christians, and in a couple of months the olive crop, which gives promise of unusual abundance, will be ready for the oil-presses. It is a most painful thing to see these poor people, who have been used to live in tolerable comfort, gradually reduced to beggary, and measures of repression will soon no longer suffice to prevent them inflicting on the peaceable Christian inhabitants within their reach the miseries which those beyond their reach have brought upon them. Their patience will not much longer bear up against the wrongs they have been compelled to suffer, and I have good grounds for believing that if steps are not taken within a very short period for restoring these people to their homes by a general pacification of the island, they will scorn all counsels of prudence and harry the country in all directions.

No official news has yet been received by the Vali of the decision come to by Congress about Crete, and his Excellency is so impressed with the gravity of the situation that he has asked by telegraph for a short leave of absence, in order to have an opportunity of exposing to Ministers in Constantinople the absolute necessity of immediate action if the island is to be saved from ruin. It is becoming increasingly evident that the Ottoman Government cannot much longer preserve the semblance of authority, even in that part of the island now subject to its sway, for there is discord between the civil and military departments. The Vali has no money to pay the employés or the police; the soldiers are profoundly dissatisfied, ill-fed, wretchedly clad, and many even without shirts, and if employed in military operations the temptation to rapine would be irresistible. To these elements of danger must be added the Bashi-Bazouks, naturally lawless, and many of them smarting under a sense of wrong, the avenging of which may well tempt them to defy considerations of prudence. If there is a comparative calm now, it is only the calm before a storm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 3.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 95. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, July* 18, 1878.

I HAVE just received from the Laz the letter inclosed herewith in translation, in consequence of which I have had the honour to forward the following telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Laz write yesterday that news of cession of Batoum being confirmed by move-

ments of Russians, who augment forces at Livanah, concentrate ten battalions at Adjarah, and erect works on frontier, they began themselves, on 13th instant, to concentrate their forces. More than 8,000 men have already left Batoum, and all Laz have been telegraphed to join. They will reinforce Livanah, march to Adjarah, and, unfurling British flag, fire on first Russian stepping on their territory."

Youssouf Pasha has received, himself, information of the movements of the Russians and of the Laz, and has written to the Mutessarif of Batoum, who has great influence on his countrymen, the Laz, to do his utmost to prevent a conflict.

Youssouf Pasha has confirmed to me the news which I heard yesterday, that a disagreement had sprung up between the Laz Beys, on the one side, and Dervish Pasha and the Commissioners of the Porte on the other, who had lost all influence on the former.

If rumours are to be credited, the Laz have sent telegrams, not only in Lazistan proper but so far as Rijeh, and it is expected that their call to arms will be answered from all quarters.

The telegrams in question are said to be written in Georgian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 3.

The Laz Delegates to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

To the British Consul at Trebizond,

ON the 21st ultimo (3rd instant), we sent an address through you to London, in which we declared our intention of opening fire on the Russians at the end of the month; but the Congress not having ended its sitting by that time, and trusting that it would have saved us from the hands of the Russians, we waited for its decision. However, the month of June has expired, and our hopes are far from being realized. We read in the papers that Batoum is ceded to Russia, and the movements of the Russians confirm these rumours. They augment their forces at Livanah, concentrate ten to twelve battalions at Adjarah, and erect new works on the frontier. We see that our country is in danger, and, faithful to our promise, we are going to die in the presence of the British Government and of the English nation, whose protection we have asked.

We began on the $\frac{15}{27}$th instant to take the necessary steps, in the measure of our means; we joined our countrymen, who occupied already the spots to be defended, and we will fire on the first Russian who will step on our territory. More than 8,000 men have already departed from Batoum, and we have telegraphed to our other countrymen to come to our assistance. After we reinforce our troops at Livanah, we will proceed to Adjarah and fight.

We pray to God and England (whose protection we are always in hopes to obtain) for prompt mercy and assistance. On the part of 200,000 individuals, who are going to unfurl the British flag and die under it, we bid a last formal farewell to the English nation, and to the Mussulmans of India. European historians will narrate, no doubt, the injustice of the Congress towards us, and all the world will shed bitter tears at our undeserved fate.

July $\frac{5}{17}$, 1878.

The Delegates of the Populations of Lazistan,
(Signed) TSURUKSOOLI ALI PASHA.
HUSSEIN KEVNIK.
HUSSEIN HASSI.
HASSAN RIGA.
MEHMED AAKIF.
MUSTAFA KIANI.
AHMED HULUSSI.
ABDULLAH TEVFIK.
MUSTAFA FEHIM.
HASSAN HASSI.

No. 4.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 32. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 19th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the movement of troops and military stores, and the insurrectionary preparations among the Albanians.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 20th instant, transmitting a petition addressed to his Excellency the Governor-General, to the Greek Archbishop, and to me, from the Christian population of Catterina, against the lawless acts of the Circassians and Albanians; and refering to another petition sent to Mr. Consul Blunt, from the inhabitants of Pentelimona, against the Turkish garrison there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a large Turkish transport has arrived here from Constantinople, having on board 200 volunteers, commanded by a Colonel called "Alai Bey," who are returning from the war to their homes here, having sold their horses at the capital.

This transport landed at Gallipoli 6 field-pieces, 6,500 cases of cartridges, and other stores, and landed here 4,500 cases of cartridges, &c.

From Monastir 500 artillerymen are coming (and some have come) here to be embarked for Gallipoli.

It is currently reported that a regiment of infantry is expected to leave Volo, coming from Larissa, and going to Catterina against Greek insurgent volunteers, who are cropping up again in the vicinity of Mount Olympus.

We are told also that 12,000 infantry are expected to arrive here from Constantinople, but their destination is not known.

The insurrectionary movement of the Mussulman population who have assembled at Prisrend and returned home continues, and they are urging the Christians to join them in resisting with armed force the imposition of a Russo-Bulgarian Government.

The authorities have not taken any measures against this movement, and from the fact that the Muftis, Cadis, Imaums, and Softas are among their most zealous partizans, it appears they are secretly assisting it.

Émissaries of some apparent importance have come from Constantinople, declaring themselves to have been sent by the Sheik-ul-Islam to preach a holy war against the Russians; and from this circumstance we are led to believe that this movement has political ramifications at the capital.

Two or three days ago arrived here Monsieur le Vicomte de Halgouët, a French Captain of Artillery and Military Attaché to the French Embassy at Constantinople. He was accompanied by a Montenegrin orderly soldier, and has left to-day for Mitrovitza on his way to Bosna Serai. It is said (but I cannot say with what truth) that he will form part of the Commission for settling the boundaries between Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—While I am about to seal I learn that three "Tabours," that is about 330 men and 300 horses, are embarking on board the transport to be conveyed to Gallipoli. Three more "Tabours" will be sent shortly afterwards. These are intended to replace the Albanian horse who have deserted.

There are 20 horses more to each "Tabour."

E. B. B. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, July 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed to your Excellency a petition in the Greek language with a translation in French, which has been sent to me, to the Vali, and to the Greek Archbishop, from the Christian inhabitants of Catterina, complaining of the lawless acts of the Circassians and Albanians, and of the fears they entertain of a wholesale massacre, if any one of their community should happen to kill a Circassian or an Albanian in self-defence.

The Vali has promised to send soldiers to Catterina, and the Commander of the troops, Assaf Pasha, has telegraphed to his lieutenant there.

I received last week, from Mr. Consul Blunt, a petition addressed to him in Greek by the inhabitants of Pentelimona, also near that district, complaining of the conduct of the Turkish garrison, and I applied immediately to Assaf Pasha to cause an inquiry, which he did at once by sending a telegram. It seems these soldiers are "Mustahfiz" and gipsies, and are a bad, disorderly set, under little control.

We have no man-of-war here now, the Italian squadron having left, and the Austrian gone to Volo; but we expect the return shortly of the French steam aviso "Renard," Commandant de la Chauvinière, who is gone to exercise his men.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Petition.

(Traduction du Grec.)

A. M. N. Bizzo, Correspondant du Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique à Salonique.

LES maux que nous supportons de la part des Circassiens et autres Musulmans de diverses races, concentrés dans notre ville, étaient insignifiants vis-à-vis de ce que ces derniers mois nous avons à supporter, parce qu'auparavant il n'y avait que le vol et le pillage; mais dernièrement le mal s'est augmenté au plus haut degré; car ils ont formé une bande de brigands mixte avec des Albanais, et capturent des Chrétiens, comme, par exemple, le fils du nommé Kiparissi Liacopulo, qu'ils gardent tant de jours réclamant 500 livres, et en cas de non paiement ils menacent sa vie. Hier, encore, de parti pris, comme il est clair, ayant gardé tous les chemins par lesquels les Chrétiens de divers villages doivent venir à la foire de cette ville pour faire leur commerce, ils ont tiré sur eux, et tué trois individus sur le chemin d'Eithochori et blessé deux autres; ils ont blessé un autre sur le chemin de Countoriotissa, et ils l'auraient tué, si un Chrétien armé qui se trouvait là par hazard n'avait pas tiré contre les brigands. Au chemin de Dranista ils ont tué un autre, et volé tout ce qu'il y avait de quelque valeur à ses compagnons. Dans cet état de choses le commerce a cessé, et nous avons peur de sortir de nos maisons pour aller à notre travail; nos bestiaux et nos récoltes restent dans les champs; notre vie est dans les mains de ces scélérats, et nous craignons qu'ils n'aillent jusqu'à nous massacrer dans la ville même. Les Albanais paraissent un jour dans un coin de la place, et un autre jour disparaissent pour commettre leurs crimes tranquillement ailleurs. Nous ne savons pas qui sont leur protecteurs.

Nous vous prions de vouloir bien faire part à l'Honorable Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique à Salonique de tous les maux que les Chrétiens subissent sans aucune protection, afin qu'il veuille prévenir un mal plus grand, qui toucherait tout cœur humain, et surtout celui des Anglais.

Nous nous basons sur des antécédents pour avoir l'espoir que la nation Anglaise dans de pareilles circonstances est la seule à avoir pitié, et agir à ce que notre pays soit délivré de cette scélérate race de Circassiens qui proclament la mort à tous les Chrétiens sans distinction, si un d'eux aurait souffert quelque chose. C'est en Dieu et dans la nation Anglaise que nous avons mis l'espoir d'être délivré de ce mal.

Nous prions le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique de vouloir bien faire parvenir notre pétition ci-incluse à son Excellence, notre Gouverneur-Général, et qu'il lui fasse connâitre les maux que nous supportons, afin d'en prendre connaissance. Dans

l'esperance que notre demande serait prise en consideration nous signons avec le plus grand respect,

Les habitants et autres demourants, Chrétiens.
(Suivent 19 signatures.)

Catterina, le 7/8 Juillet, 1878.

Je, Soussigné, Procureur de l'Archevêque et Économe, certifie ce qui est ci-dessus.

(Signé) PAPPA COSTA.

No. 5.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 706.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 31, 1878.

PORTE having instructed Turkish Ambassador at Berlin to inform Prince Bismarck that it could not ratify Treaty within time specified, the Prince received the communication with much displeasure, replying that Porte had better arrange the matter with the other Powers.

It has consequently entreated its Representatives to ask for a delay of a fortnight, and I am requested to ask your Lordship to consent.

No. 7.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 708.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 31, 1878.

DECISION of Council held yesterday as to Austrian occupation of Bosnia is nearly in the same sense as before. A Convention is insisted upon, including seven or eight points, the principal of which refers to duration of occupation, which Count Andrassy has categorically resisted. Sultan, I secretly learn, is unwilling to yield even Convention. He wishes to appeal to signature of Treaty of Berlin, and to point out fatal consequences to life and property that would result from an Austrian occupation of Bosnia. But he will be probably induced to accept decision of yesterday's Council, in which case Porte will issue necessary proclamation enjoining population of Bosnia not to resist Austrian occupation. Porte states that it would be useless, under present circumstances, to attempt to secure neutrality of military forces in the province; as they are composed mainly of Bosnian Mussulmans, who will not acknowledge its authority at the present juncture.

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 1, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Acting Consul Freeman, dated yesterday :—

[Secret and Confidential.] *Wednesday.*

"Situation of affairs the same. Governor, Vice-Governor, and other Ottoman officers were permitted to quit in safety yesterday. To-day population insist on the departure of Austrian Consul and his staff. Preparations for resistance to the ( ). Communicate to Foreign Office all my telegrams."

No. 9.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878, 8·45 A.M.

THE Sultan has asked for delay in ratifying the Treaty of Berlin.

Represent to him that such a course will involve the greatest possible dangers. It is very unlikely that delay will be assented to by all other Powers, and Russians may found upon any irregularity pretext for indefinite delay in evacuation of Turkish territory.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878, 2·40 P.M.

I ENTIRELY approve the instructions given by your Excellency and your colleagues to the International Commissioners, as reported in your telegram No. 702 of yesterday.

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878, 3 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 700 of the 29th instant, you may offer to the Porte England's good offices in coming to an arrangement for the future government of Crete; and, if accepted by the Porte, you may make the same offer through Consul Sandwith to the insurgents in Crete.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard

(No. 879.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878.

I HAVE informed your Excellency by telegraph this day that the Sultan has asked for a prolongation of the term within which, according to Article LXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, he is bound to ratify that Act.

It is most improbable that this application will be assented to by all the Powers parties to the Treaty.

It is to be feared that any such irregular proceeding of the Turkish Government may be made the pretext by the Russian Government for an indefinite postponement of the evacuation by their troops of the Turkish territory they now occupy.

Your Excellency will therefore represent to His Imperial Majesty that any delay on his side in ratifying the Treaty may possibly involve the gravest consequences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 13.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 880.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram dated the 30th ultimo, in which you inform me that you had associated yourself with your French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues in sending identic instructions to the International Commissioners, desiring that they should, notwithstanding the opposition, and even the withdrawal

of the Russian Commissioner, continue their inquiries, as long as they are in a majority, into the sufferings to which it is alleged the Mussulman population of the districts occupied by the Russians and Bulgarians have been subjected since the signature of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have now to inform your Excellency that your action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 892.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878.

AS it would appear from the telegram sent home by your Excellency on the 29th ultimo, that the Porte is disposed to come to an arrangement for regulating the future form of government in Crete, I have to instruct your Excellency to offer the good offices of England with that view.

Should this proposal be viewed with favour by the Ottoman Government, I request that you will make the same offer to the insurgents in Crete, through Mr. Consul Sandwith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 893.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction, from your Excellency's despatch No. 917 of the 16th ultimo, that owing to your representations urgent orders have been telegraphed by the Grand Vizier to the Turkish authorities in the Island of Crete to punish with severity any soldiers who may be found guilty of outrages upon the Christians in Crete.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 894.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 1, 1878.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 923 of the 18th ultimo, reporting the steps taken with regard to the dispatch of the Commission to inquire into the condition of the Mussulmans in Mount Rhodope and the neighbouring districts, and inclosing copy of the instructions which your Excellency has addressed to Consul-General Fawcett, the British Member of the Commission, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 17.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 371. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, July* 27, 1878.

I ASKED the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Austro-Hungarian Government had made any representation or remark to the Italian Ambassador in Vienna with regard to the late political manifestations and unfriendly attitude assumed throughout Italy towards the Empire.

Count Maffei stated, that up to the present moment the Austro-Hungarian Government had not asked, nor had the Italian Government offered, any explanation on the subject. Count Andrassy, he said, is well aware that Signor Cairoli is bound scrupulously to respect the liberty of the Press, and the right of meeting; hence the Imperial Government could not reasonably hold the Italian Government responsible for a movement which it has neither countenanced nor encouraged, and of which, indeed, it does not itself approve.

Count Maffei, however, remarked, confidentially, that he, personally, was somewhat uneasy at the marked silence observed by the Austro-Hungarian Government, inasmuch as the question of the rectification of the frontier, so far as the Trentino is concerned, could not now be abandoned by Italy, and, he added, that hitherto this question had been held up to Europe as a vague and undefined idea, destined to serve party purpose, but that now it has taken its place as a question of no secondary European importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 18.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 374.)
My Lord, *Rome, July* 28, 1878.

THE feeling of discontent and irritation lately manifested in this country at the result of the Congress appears now to die away; but it is to be feared that the effect produced by these unnecessary and dangerous manifestations may yet be felt throughout Italy.

The general impression appears to be, that however unimportant these manifestations may at first sight appear, their object must not be lost sight of; it was not intended to lead to the erection of barricades, nor to a war with Austria, but to a public manifestation of opinion that Italy does not and cannot hold that place as a first-class Power to which she is entitled; that had she been strong and powerful, she could not only have firmly expressed her opinion at the Congress, but could also have caused her just claims to be respected, instead of which she is now discredited and isolated.

With the support of such and similar arguments, the cry of the Press and the "Irredenti" party is now for large and extensive armaments. The Government, so far as I have been able to ascertain, are likewise disposed to share this opinion, on the plea that the position now assumed by Austria will be one of constant menace. Furthermore, the state of things created by the Treaty of Berlin does not offer a sufficient guarantee for the stability of the peace of Europe; consequently, in placing their army—not on a war footing—but on a footing proportionate with that of other States of Europe, the Government would meet the wishes of the country, and be prepared for every eventuality. Should the Government carry out this idea, I need not point out to your Lordship that, apart from the political complications in which it may involve Italy, the effect will be disastrous on her finances, which are already sufficiently embarrassed by the abolition of the grist tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 19.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *August* 1, 1878.

M. DE GIERS tells me that Turkish Ambassador yesterday requested prolongation for fifteen days of the period for the exchange of the ratifications. Russian Government have replied that they maintain date fixed in the Treaty, but would accede to delay demanded in the case of Turkey on condition of her making a formal declaration that the Sultan considers the Treaty as in force, and that physical impossibility of preparing the ratifications in time to reach Berlin on the 3rd, is the sole reason of their not being there.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 178.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 2, 1878.

THE entry of the Austrian forces into Banieluka where resistance had been thought probable was effected without collision or disturbances of any kind. The Turkish officials have been retained in their posts and everything is quiet there.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 179.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 2, 1878.

THE Turkish Ambassador has received information of the correctness of which he is satisfied, though it is denied by the Austrian Government, that the Imperial troops have met with serious opposition in the Herzegovina, and that one battalion has suffered very severely. He has also learnt that 3,000 Montenegrins have joined the Herzegovina population to help in resisting the Austrians.

No. 22.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 2, 1878.

SERVIA accepts Roumanians' proposals to send a Minister Plenipotentiary, and will return the compliment where the same is paid.

Servia will have one Representative only for England and France.

No. 23.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 118. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, June* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that it is believed at Bucharest that within the last few days fresh efforts have been made by Germany, on behalf of Russia, to induce Roumania to come to terms on the subject of Bessarabia, and that the communications which His Highness Prince Charles is said to have received from Berlin on this delicate subject, and which are ascribed by some, whether justly or not I am unable to ascertain, to the Crown Prince of Germany, go so far as to insinuate that the recognition of Roumanian independence may be deferred till the coveted district has been retroceded or exchanged to Russia.

The Prince of Roumania left Bucharest for his country residence at Sinaia yesterday, and it is asserted that previous to his departure he had sent to the Delegates at Berlin fresh instructions, determined upon after full agreement between himself

and his Ministers, rejecting all and every kind of transaction on the subject of Bessarabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 24.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 122. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that great anxiety is evidently felt at Bucharest with regard to the approaching determination of the Congress as to Bessarabia.

It is known here that M. de Radovitz, who was formerly German Consul-General at Bucharest, had drawn up schemes at the time for remodelling the institutions of this Principality, and abrogating the existing Constitution.

Some alarm is felt that this old scheme may find favour in some quarters.

Somehow or other suspicion has arisen that M. Cogalniceano, one of the Delegates, may be disposed to countenance all kinds of changes of different kinds for his country.

This suspicion, though it may after all prove unfounded, has produced much excitement in the Chamber last night, and has resulted in urgent representations having been sent to the Prince to beg of His Highness to recall promptly this Delegate from Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 25.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 124. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Roumania has returned to the neighbourhood of Bucharest yesterday, but as far as I can hear His Highness is quite unwilling to take an initiative on the subject of Bessarabia, or to move in the matter so as to induce his country to accept the determination of the Congress affecting this Principality.

He says that this is a question which the country must decide for itself, that, not being a native, but a foreign Prince, who found the country in possession of these districts at his accession, it is not for him to recommend any sacrifice in that direction.

The Ministry and their supporters continue to speak loudly for refusing every kind of compromise and resisting to the last extremity, still the anger against the second Delegate is subsiding. Both the Delegates are expected back from Berlin on Saturday.

Some time must elapse before opinion finally settles down on this much-vexed question; we must be prepared to hear quite contradictory assertions maintained, and every possible form of resistance exhausted before the rulers of this country submit reluctantly to their inevitable fate, and resign themselves more or less willingly to accept the proffered territorial exchange.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 26.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 127. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July 10, 1878.*

I HAD the honour of an audience with His Highness the Prince of Roumania yesterday, and I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that public opinion has been so favourably modified here within the last few days on the subject of Bessarabia, that both the Sovereign and people of this country will, I fully believe, submit, however reluctantly, to the decisions of the Congress of Berlin concerning them.

Of course this will not be done cheerfully, but I do not anticipate any complication from the settlement of this question, and the Prince and his Ministers appear to have adopted a line of policy most conducive to the best interests of their country, and to reassure Europe in this respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 27.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 129. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July 10, 1878.*

MR. READE sent me the following despatch from Varna for transmission to your Lordship:—

"200,000 Mussulman refugees from districts in Russian occupation still in the Shumla Caza. 10,000 to 15,000 utterly destitute. Sight very heartrending. Government resources nearly exhausted. Turkish Compassionate Fund also. Russians recently invited their return home, promising protection; many left, but were forced to retrace steps from cruel treatment by Bulgars, and no notice from Russians. Many have already succumbed, and as their standing crops, not already seized by Bulgars, require immediate reaping, if they are not quickly enabled to repatriate safely and Bulgar maltreatment not arrested, very many more must perish, and loss of crops must entail eventual famine. Case extremely urgent.

"I am reliably informed that Bulgars are daily and cruelly maltreating Mussulmans in every direction, and Russians do not interfere. If temporary occupation of new province is by Russians alone all say, and I believe, that none but Bulgars can remain, and many thousands must inevitably be ruined."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 28.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 131. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July 10, 1878.*

WHEN the two Roumanian Delegates left for Berlin a month ago, it was generally believed here that if the Congress disregarded the claims and wishes of this country, and the Envoys returned without any reasonable hope of preserving the Bessarabian districts, we should find ourselves in the midst of a crisis of the most grave character which Roumania had experienced since 1866.

The opponents of the present Government were loud in their prophecies that the party now in office would be hurled from power as soon as it became known that their mission to Berlin turned out a failure.

Gradually, during the last week, the excitement abated considerably.

A great deal of merit is due to the highly patriotic manner and tact with which Prince Charles has treated political parties in this Principality at this critical juncture.

His Highness has said all along that, being a stranger by birth, he should abstain from exercising any kind of pressure, and leave the country to decide entirely for itself the course that is to be followed as regards Bessarabia.

The admission of Roumania to the Congress, which was done on your Lordship's proposal, will, I am sure, contribute to soothe the feelings of the people here, and I sincerely trust that when the Protocols of that Conference have been published, it will be seen, even more than it is now, how little the opposition of the other Powers, however sympathetic, could have prevented this Principality from the eventual loss of that much-coveted territory.

I had the honour of an audience with the Prince a few days ago. His Highness spoke with great sense and moderation, and although he feels, I dare say very keenly, the actual loss, and is fully alive to the many present disadvantages accruing by the acquisition of the Dobrudscha, he takes a hopeful view of the future prospects of his country, and has every reason to be satisfied that, financially, its position is better than it has been for many years, but likewise because he has succeeded in pulling through the difficulties accumulated upon him, and has not felt any inconvenience from maintaining during the whole time full liberty of the press to his subjects, and the exercise of Constitutional rights, and that even in the presence of a considerable foreign military force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 29.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 135. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July 23, 1878.*

THE people of this country had been so sanguine that somehow or other they would be allowed to retain Bessarabia, that the irritation produced here by the determination of the Congress on the subject of that province is only very slowly and gradually giving way. There are still many persons of note at Bucharest who give it out as their opinion that although the loss of the districts claimed by Russia must be submitted to, it would be wiser or, at least, more patriotic to refuse to barter or exchange an ancient Roumanian territory reincorporated to this country since 1856 for the Dobrudscha, however enlarged by the decisions of the Congress of Berlin.

Those who are in favour of accepting the new acquisition plead that a portion of its population is likewise of Roumanian race, and that many localities, not only in the Dobrudscha, but more particularly in the immediate neighbourhood of Silistria, are to be found inhabited by a kindred people, speaking Roumanian; that, moreover, these districts were ruled by the same Prince some centuries back.

The actual value of the new acquisitions is, however, a perfectly unknown quantity even in Bucharest, strange as it may appear, and it cannot, however, be denied that not only capital will be required for the development of this annexation, but that its administration will present many vexatious problems, on the proper solution of which the future of this country will greatly depend.

It is apprehended that a good many difficulties are likely to crop up in this newly-acquired territory, not so much from its Mussulman inhabitants as from those of Slav race and language, who, especially if the Russian military occupation is allowed to continue much longer, may be influenced unfavourably towards the new Government by the numerous agents of Slavonic Committees attached in various capacities to the military authorities, or employed in the new administration of Bulgaria.

The Bucharest Cabinet is naturally desirous to ascertain the public opinion of their own country at large before assuming all the duties and responsibilities of the new situation, and for that purpose it is looking forward to the information likely to be brought back from the electoral districts by the Deputies, who are all gone home for a short vacation.

Another question which is causing the Cabinet more anxiety than they are prepared to admit is the mode by which they ought to proceed in adapting their internal legislation to the removal of the disabilities of Jews, &c., as proclaimed by the Congress.

So much envy, malice, and hatred has been allowed to accumulate for years in connection with this question, and so little has been done by any party to prepare for

a reform of that kind, so many opportunities have been allowed to slip, that it will be no easy task now for any Government to carry out all the legislative enactments rendered necessary by the Treaty of Berlin, without provoking an amount of criticism which is sure to be embarrassing for the men in power, and which may necessitate the use of unpopular measures and even of force, in case the animosity known to exist in certain localities should lead to breaches of the peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 30.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Jassy, July 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that no sanitary train has arrived here for several days past; the passage of Russian sick by this route appears to have finally ceased, and the station has assumed a deserted aspect, which, I hear, was its normal state before the passage of the Russians.

There are still nearly the same number of Russians stationed here, but the number of sick in hospital has much diminished.

The town is perfectly quiet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 31.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 656.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 20, 1878.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 17th instant, and in the uncertainty of finding Count Schouvaloff, I addressed to his Excellency a note, copy of which I have the honour to annex, inquiring, as instructed by your Lordship, whether he attached importance to maintaining secret Memorandum No. 3, as your Lordship considered that its publication would have a good effect, as indicating absence of hostile meaning in Anglo-Turkish Convention. After communicating with Prince Gortchakow, Count Schouvaloff replied by a note, of which a copy is annexed, in which his Excellency states that the Anglo-Turkish Convention was an additional reason for maintaining the strictly confidential character of Memorandum No. 3, which your Lordship promised should not be published without the assent of the Imperial Cabinet.

If, Count Schouvaloff adds, Her Majesty's Government had intended to conclude the Convention, it would have been better not to have proposed the Memorandum No. 3. Were it to be published, it would be generally understood as if Russia engages not to extend her conquests in Asia, but that England does not consider this sufficient, and promises, nevertheless, to Turkey to guarantee her possessions in Asia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Lord A. Loftus to Count Schouvaloff.

Mon cher Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le 18 Juillet, 1878.*

PERMETTEZ d'abord que je vous offre mes félicitations sur l'heureux succès du Congrès. Vous avez rendu d'inestimables services à votre pays et à l'Europe, dont la juste appréciation sera dignement inscrite sur la page de l'histoire.

Maintenant dans l'incertitude de vous trouver j'écris ces lignes, désirant de ne pas tarder à répondre à Lord Salisbury. Il me charge de vous demander si vous attachez d'importance à maintenir secret le Mémorandum No. 3. Lord Salisbury croit que la publication aura un bon effet, comme indiquant l'absence de toute signification hostile dans la Convention Anglo-Turque.

Les propres paroles sont les suivantes :—

"Publication would have a good effect, as indicating absence of hostile meaning in Anglo-Turkish Convention."

Je vous prie de me mettre à même de répondre à cette demande de Lord Salisbury le plus tôt possible.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Count Schouvaloff to Lord A. Loftus.

Mon cher Lord Loftus, *St. Pétersbourg, le 7/19 Juillet*, 1878.

JE vous remercie de vos bonnes paroles; j'y suis très-sensible.

J'ai communiqué au Prince Gortchacow votre lettre concernant la publication du Mémorandum No. 3. Il est secret, et le Marquis de Salisbury a promis de ne pas le livrer à la publicité sans l'assentement du Cabinet Impérial. Le Prince trouve que la Convention Anglo-Turque est une raison de plus pour que nous maintenions pour notre part le caractère strictement confidentiel de ce Mémorandum. Si le Gouvernement de la Reine avait eu confiance dans la parole de la Russie, la Convention devenait inutile. S'il avait l'intention de la conclure, il eût mieux valu ne pas nous proposer le Mémorandum No. 3. Si vous alliez le publier il serait généralement compris de la manière suivante: la Russie s'engage à ne pas étendre ses conquêtes en Asie, mais l'Angleterre ne trouve pas cet engagement suffisant, et promet néanmoins à la Turquie de lui garantir ses possessions en Asie.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 32.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 656 A. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 20*, 1878.

I HAD an interview with Count Schouvaloff to-day, and after some complimentary observations on the successful issue of the Berlin Congress, I referred to the question I had addressed to him by your Lordship's instructions in regard to the publication of Memorandum No. 3.

Count Schouvaloff stated that he had referred the question to Prince Gortchakow, and that, in conformity with his instructions, he had sent me the written reply (copy of which is inclosed in my despatch No. 656 of the 20th July) stating the objections against the publication of this document.

His Excellency said that the distrust evinced towards Russia had made a very disagreeable impression here. It was felt (and he evidently alluded to the Emperor) that the previous arrangements agreed to by England had not been strictly carried out, and he complained that at every step in the Congress he had had to encounter continued opposition on the part of the English Plenipotentiaries. He instanced more especially the strong opposition to the cession to Russia of Batoum, notwithstanding the agreement that England would not oppose it in Congress. Then again, he observed, the Anglo-Turkish Convention had given great dissatisfaction, as proving, on the part of England, a distrust of the solemn engagement taken by Russia in the Memorandum No. 3.

In answer to these reproaches, I observed that he seemed to forget Turkey altogether. The Memorandum No. 3 was a secret engagement on the part of Russia towards England, but it was not known to the Sultan, and the guarantee to the Sultan on the part of England, founded on the solemn engagement of Russia, was a supplement to Memorandum No. 3, and a necessary consolation to Turkey.

I further observed to his Excellency, in regard to his general observations on the opposition of the English Plenipotentiaries, that England was in a different position to Russia. The English Plenipotentiaries had to consider Parliament and public opinion in England, whereas the Russian Plenipotentiaries were merely responsible to the Emperor, who was autocratic and supreme. I observed to him that had Russia abstained from territorial acquisitions, there would have been no necessity for the occupation of Cyprus, nor would it now be retained if the annexations by Russia in Asia Minor were given up. He must bear in mind that the Russian engagements had been of rather an elastic nature, inasmuch as conquest and territorial aggrandizement were not in conformity with previous assurances, to which I personally could bear testimony.

Count Schouvaloff appeared to fear that although the Congress had been successfully carried out the distrust of Russia by England had not been removed, and that complications may still arise in regard to the execution of the decisions of the Congress.

He expressed great anxiety about Batoum. Before the Congress, he said, your Lordship had declined to press on the Porte its evacuation, as England had not recognized the Treaty of San Stefano. Would England now use her influence to persuade Turkey to give it up? He was afraid that influences were at work at Constantinople in a contrary sense.

Then, again, if Russia should refuse to retire from Erzeroum until Batoum was surrendered, might not England be called upon to carry out the guarantee she had given to Turkey? and might not thus fresh complications of a serious nature arise? Count Schouvaloff confessed that he was uneasy on the subject of Batoum. In regard to the Turco-Greek question Count Schouvaloff entertained no fears, and appeared to think that the questions at issue between Turkey and Greece would be settled amicably under European mediation.

I found Count Schouvaloff anxious and dejected. He appeared to be specially disquieted in regard to Batoum, and to fear fresh complications on that subject, unless England was prepared to urge on Turkey the strict fulfilment of the engagements of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 33.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 659.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 22*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow returned to this capital from Berlin on the 18th instant, and has officially announced his resumption of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I had an interview with his Highness to-day, and congratulated him on the successful issue of the deliberations of the Congress.

He expressed to me his great satisfaction at having had an opportunity of being personally acquainted with Lord Beaconsfield, and with the result of the interviews he had had with his Lordship. He expressed his anxious hope that, in consequence of the exchange of opinions which had taken place, the future relations between England and Russia would bear a more friendly and conciliatory character. He cordially desired this result in the mutual interests of both countries, as well as in the interests of humanity and civilization.

His Highness expressed to me some anxiety about the cession of Batoum, and requested me to convey to your Lordship his anxious wish that Her Majesty's Government, in the common interest, as well as in the interest of Turkey, should use their influence to induce the Porte to evacuate Batoum without delay, observing that this prompt execution by Turkey of the engagements of the Treaty of Berlin previous to its ratification would give proof of her sincerity to execute faithfully its stipulations.

Prince Gortchakow informed me that he had just seen Chakir Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, and that he had made a similar request to his Excellency. I learnt subsequently from Chakir Pasha that at Prince Gortchakow's earnest desire he had addressed a telegram to the Porte in conformity with the Prince's wish.

It appears to me that if the Porte should be disposed to assent to the wish of Prince Gortchakow in regard to Batoum the immediate restoration of the Turkish prisoners of war now detained in Russia might be claimed in return. However, I did not think it desirable to initiate this idea, as it is a question which merely regards Russia and Turkey; but I profited of the opportunity to ask Prince Gortchakow when

the Russian forces would be withdrawn from San Stefano. To this question his Highness replied at once: "On the evacuation of Shumla and Varna."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 932.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 21, 1878.*

I AVAILED myself of an opportunity, when seeing Safvet Pasha this morning, to communicate to his Highness the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 19th instant, received yesterday, directing me to impress on the Porte the great importance of being moderate in its demands upon Austria, and suggesting that it would be of the highest value to Turkey to secure an Austrian guarantee against attack from Servia and Montenegro, and, if possible, from Bulgaria. Your Lordship further expressed your opinion that it would be very unwise not to take advantage of the apparent present readiness of Count Andrassy to give such a guarantee.

After listening to what I had to state to him, his Highness informed me that the Council of Ministers had yesterday determined to adhere to its resolution not to consent to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austrian troops, until Austria had agreed to enter into a Convention with Turkey, in conformity with the instructions given to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at the Congress, who were now at Vienna negotiating on this subject with Count Andrassy. I had the honour of communicating to your Lordship those instructions in my despatch No. 898 of the 13th instant. The principal points upon which the Porte insists are, that the sovereign rights of the Sultan should be fully recognized, that the duration of the occupation should be limited to six or twelve months, that the Turkish and Austrian Commanders should come to an understanding as to the positions to be occupied by the Austrian troops, and that the civil administration should remain in the hands of Turkish functionaries.

In reply to your Lordship's suggestion that Count Andrassy might be disposed at the present time to give a guarantee to Turkey to defend her against future attack on the part of Servia, Montenegro, and even Bulgaria, Safvet Pasha said that some communications had passed between Count Andrassy and the Turkish Plenipotentiaries on this subject, but that he had refused to enter into any engagement, or to give any promise in writing, and had insisted upon confining himself to a mere verbal suggestion that when Austria occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina she would have a solidarity of interests with Turkey, which would necessarily compel her to assist the Porte in defending its territories against aggression from those three Principalities. This, his Highness observed, was not enough. A mere verbal declaration of this kind offered no guarantee whatever to the Porte.

The Council, his Highness went on to say, were of opinion that if the Porte were to agree to what Count Andrassy requires, the Sultan would have to cede to Austria two provinces without any reason or equivalent whatever. Austria pretended that it was necessary for her to occupy those provinces in order to restore order and to secure the return of the refugees. The Porte was ready and able to do both. The utmost that could be required of it was to accept the temporary assistance of Austrian troops. But what Count Andrassy demanded was not a temporary occupation, but an absolute cession to Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina. By what right, his Highness asked, did he do so? Austria had not been at war with Turkey, and had not established any right by conquest to the territory she demanded. She offered absolutely nothing in return for it. How, then, could the Sultan justify to his people the cession of so large a portion of the Ottoman dominions? He would place himself in a most critical position by agreeing to it. Already the public feeling was very much agitated on the subject, and it was feared that if Austrian troops entered Bosnia, there would be resistance on the part of the populations, and bloodshed would ensue. On these grounds the Council adhere to the demand for a Convention which the Plenipotentiaries had been instructed to make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 35.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 933. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 21, 1878.*

SAFVET Pasha told me this morning that he had been informed by M. Onou, the Russian Dragoman, that if England had not obtained from the Porte the right to occupy Cyprus it had been the intention of Russia to renounce her claims to Batoum. It was owing entirely to England that Turkey had lost that port.

I remarked to his Highness that, as far as my information went, I had every reason to believe that this statement was absolutely contrary to the fact, and that Russia had resolved to obtain Batoum even at the risk of war. It was this determination on her part, I said, that had been one of the reasons why Her Majesty's Government considered it necessary, in the interests of England, to occupy Cyprus. I added that his Highness might satisfy himself on this point by referring to the Protocols of the Congress and to published documents.

Safvet Pasha observed that he was not to be deceived by such statements as that to which he had referred, but that other persons were. The Russians, he said, were intriguing actively to make the Turks believe that England was now seeking to establish a direct protectorate over the Sultan's Asiatic dominions, and that it was with this view that she had taken possession of Cyprus. Russia, they pretended, had had no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Turkey, and if the arrangements proposed by her in the Treaty of San Stefano had been accepted, no such protectorate as that aimed at by England would have been established, and the sovereign rights and authority of the Sultan would have been upheld and respected. Such arguments, his Highness observed, produced in some quarters an unfavourable impression against England, and rendered the employment of Englishmen in posts of importance in Asiatic Turkey very difficult for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 36.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 934.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 21, 1878.*

I CALLED this morning on Safvet Pasha, to urge upon him the great importance of carrying out the recommendations of the Congress for the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontiers. Judging from his language and manner I was induced to believe that he was not personally opposed to an arrangement with Greece with this object, but he gave me to understand that the opposition to it in the Council of Ministers and on the part of those whom the Sultan is in the habit of consulting was such that he despaired of overcoming it. He said that a Council had been held on the previous day, and that it had decided to advise the Sultan not to give up any Turkish territory to Greece. Under these circumstances he feared that there was little hope of friendly agreement between the two countries on the subject.

His Highness then read to me a despatch from the Turkish Minister at Athens, stating that the Greek Government did not apparently wish to come to a friendly understanding with the Porte to carry out the recommendation of the Congress. It would prefer, Photiades Bey thinks, to drive Turkey into a war, in which it counts upon the sympathy and support of some of the European Powers, and which would, in the end, it believes, lead to the acquisition by Greece of far more Turkish territory than has been assigned to her by the Treaty of Berlin, and which the Greeks do not consider sufficient to satisfy their legitimate claims and aspirations. With this object, Photiades Bey states, the Greek Government is preparing a force of 30,000 men, and ten batteries of Krupp guns, which will cross the frontiers if the Porte declines to agree to the appointment of a Commission for the rectification of the frontiers. These troops, according to a declaration which is to be made by the Greek Government, will not be sent into Turkish territory for hostile purposes, but only to carry out the decisions of the Congress, and as its "mandatory." If the Turkish authorities should

resist the advance of the Greek army, war will be the consequence, and the responsibility of provoking it will be placed upon the Porte.

Such being the intentions of the Greek Government, the Grand Vizier observed, it was absolutely incumbent upon the Porte to take measures for the defence of its territories, and it was, consequently, sending troops to reinforce the small army that had been left in Thessaly. It had no intention whatever of attacking Greece; but it was determined to resist any attempt she might make to invade Turkey upon such pretences as, according to Photiades Bey, she would attempt to justify an unjustifiable aggression.

I endeavoured to persuade his Highness to induce the Council to reconsider its decision to refuse the cession of any Ottoman territory to Greece. But he declared that its resolution was final, and when I asked him whether he authorized me to telegraph to your Lordship that such was the case, he answered in the affirmative. His manner and tone, however, were such as to lead me to believe that he deplored the decision to which the Council had come.

I then asked Safvet Pasha whether there were no means of arriving at some understanding with Greece, which might satisfy her, be approved by Europe, and remove the danger of war. I suggested that Turkey might offer to surrender the Island of Crete to Greece on condition of the demand for a rectification of the frontiers being abandoned. I had no authority, I said, to make such a suggestion, nor did I even know whether Greece would be inclined to entertain the proposal. But I thought that no means should be left untried to prevent the breaking out of hostilities with Greece, which might lead to very fatal results to Turkey. His Highness replied that he could not give me any answer on the subject without first consulting his colleagues; but he was under the impression that they would not consent to the surrender of any Turkish territory whatever to Greece.

However, I have reason to believe that if your Lordship approved of the proposal, and could induce the Greek Government to accept it, the Porte might also be persuaded to make, or agree to, it.

The Turkish military authorities maintain that the frontier line from the mouth of the Kalamus to that of Peneus, suggested by the Congress, is not a defensible one, and that, if adopted, instead of removing the understandings which have hitherto constantly arisen between Turkey and Greece, it would give rise to fresh ones, and to perpetual differences between the two Powers. Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, with whom I had a conversation on the subject yesterday, expressed a very strong opinion in this sense, and pointed out to me, referring to a map, the objections he entertained to the proposed frontier. It did not offer a single position, he said, that could be defended; the interests of the populations on both sides of it would be so dealt with as to give rise to continued disagreements between the Porte and Greece; thus the town of Larissa would be assigned to the Greeks, whilst lands and property belonging to its inhabitants would be on the opposite side of the river, on which it stands; in Epirus there is no ridge which could form a well-defined frontier; the line would have to cross successive ranges of mountains, and descend into successive valleys. The only true frontier was that chosen when the Kingdom of Greece was formed, and which followed the watershed between the two countries. No other available frontier could be obtained, except by giving up to Greece far more territory than Turkey could consent to sacrifice. Such being the case, he said, he had advised the Council not to agree to the rectification of the frontiers proposed by the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 37.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 935.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram, addressed by the inhabitants of the Vilayet of Erzeroum to the Congress, again declaring that they will not submit to the Russians, and that they prefer to emigrate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 38.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 936.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1878.*

ACCORDING to the XIIIth and XVIIth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin, the Governor-General of Oriental Roumelia is to be a Christian, and is to be named by the Porte, with the assent of the Powers, for the term of five years. There are, I understand, already several candidates for this post. Amongst them is Rustem Pasha, the present Governor of the Lebanon. The choice of persons for this important office, if confined to the subjects of the Sultan, is extremely limited. There are but few with whom I am acquainted who would be competent to fill it, even with a moderate chance of success. Rustem Pasha is, perhaps, one of the best of them, and it appears to me that the fact of his being a Roman Catholic is an advantage. To appoint a Greek would be to run the risk of establishing an inconvenient precedent; for although the particular branch of the Christian faith to which the Governor-General is to belong is not specified in the Treaty, yet it may hereafter be pretended that he should be of the Greek Church, and the appointment of a Greek as first Governor might be used to justify this pretension.

It would be even more undesirable to name a Bulgarian to this office. Even if one could be found who has the necessary qualifications for it, his appointment would be most objectionable to the Greeks and other Christian sects, and to the Mussulmans. He would probably ere long become a mere Russian tool, and would be used to promote Russian designs and intrigues. Moreover, the fanaticism and intolerance displayed by the Bulgarians since the Russian occupation have shown what may be expected if a Bulgarian had power in his hands.

Rustem Pasha, besides having filled several important diplomatic missions in Europe, has had experience of government in Mount Lebanon. His administration of the affairs of that district, under difficult circumstances, entirely satisfied the Porte, and has met with the warm approval of Her Majesty's Consul-General and of the Consul-General of France in Syria. He has shown that he is not under any particular foreign influence, and has acted with courage and independence.

Rustem Pasha informs me that Safvet Pasha has encouraged him to hope that he will be the candidate most acceptable to the Porte, and I believe that he will receive the support of my French colleague and probably of the Italian and German Chargés d'Affaires. I presume that the Russians would not approve of his appointment. I should be glad to have your Lordship's views on this subject, as Rustem Pasha has asked me to speak to the Grand Vizier in his favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 39.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 938. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1878.*

THE French Ambassador told me last night that he had informed the Grand Vizier in the morning that the French ironclad squadron in the Mediterranean had been ordered to the Pirœus, with the object of preventing any attack by the Turkish fleet on the Greek coasts, in the event of war between Greece and Turkey. He had, at the same time, communicated to Safvet Pasha the instructions that he has received from his Government, to endeavour to bring about an understanding between the two countries for the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontiers, as recommended by the Congress.

I have observed of late a change in the language of M. Fournier. It is much more hostile to the Sultan and to Turkey than it was a short time ago, and I perceive an intention on the part of the French Embassy to return to the old policy of promoting French interests in the Levant, through the Roman Catholic population and priesthood. Whether this change is in consequence of instructions that M. Fournier has received from his Government, or is to be attributed to his personal opinions and views, I cannot say. The French may feel some bitterness and jealousy

on account of our occupation of Cyprus with the consent of the Sultan, which they think may diminish their influence in Syria and in the Levant in general; or they may wish to make use of the Catholic element in the East to oppose the Russo-Greek.

I asked M. Fournier whether, in the event of the Porte being resolute, even at the risk of war, to refuse the rectification of the frontiers proposed at the Congress; there were no means, in his opinion, of bringing about a compromise, which might prevent a fresh outbreak of hostilities. He replied that he thought that if, as the Turkish military authorities maintained, the line of frontier recommended was neither well defined nor defensible, the best compromise would be to give the whole of Thessaly to Greece, and to leave all Epirus in the possession of the Porte. Such an arrangement, he believed, would be more favourable to future peace than one which gave the halves of the two provinces to Greece, which would be only an encouragement to her to intrigue until she obtained the remainder. Moreover, the frontiers of Thessaly are such as the Turks could defend against any further encroachments on the part of the Greeks.

M. Fournier will leave Constantinople for France next week, on a short leave of absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 40.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 989.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 24, 1878.*

THE Turkish Government complains that notwithstanding the engagements entered into by Russia, she still refuses to release the Turkish prisoners of war, and to allow them to return to their country. Ghazi Osman Pasha spoke to me yesterday, stating that he had addressed General Todleben on the subject, but that every manner of futile excuse was made to justify the retention of the prisoners, and that it was evidently the intention of the Russian authorities not to release them for the present. Whilst Russia is continually putting forward charges, many of which are unjust and unfounded, against the Porte, for non-fulfilment of its promises and undertakings, she has systematically neglected, or violated, almost all those into which she has entered with Turkey, and appears to treat the people she has defeated as if they were beyond the sphere in which generosity, justice, and right were recognized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 41.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 990.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a report from Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, and of two despatches from Vice-Consul Calvert, giving further proofs of the result of Russian rule in Roumelia. They need no comment. The unhappy Mussulmans, without the sympathy or help of Europe, must suffer to the bitter end. Those who denounced "Bulgarian atrocities" and incited, in the cause of humanity, one of the most cruel and unrighteous of wars are now silent. But is there no hope that by the publication of such reports as those of Mr. Calvert and others, the public opinion of Europe may be brought to bear upon Russia, and that a stop may be put to outrages which are a disgrace to civilization, and which are the more to be condemned as they are committed in a time of peace, and when the unhappy people who are their victims have been subdued and can offer no resistance, and after promises given by the Emperor himself that their lives and property shall be respected?

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Mr. Fawcett to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Adrianople, July 22, 1878.*

I TAKE the opportunity of our staying a couple of hours here on our way to Dédéagatch to write you a few lines on the subject of the interview which the Commission had with Prince Dondoukoff yesterday.

Before doing so, I wish to give your Excellency the impression I have received from conversations with residents here and at Philippopolis. The persons whom I have seen are well-informed and, I think, impartial. I mean M. Schnell, of the Ottoman Bank; M. Camara, whom you well know as so active last year in the hospitals; M. Mileoff, the well-known merchant of Philippopolis; and another Bulgarian gentleman, whose name I did not catch, but who, I think, was one of the Guesholf family. Their unanimous opinion is that if the yoke of the Turks was somewhat hard, that of the Russians is infinitely more so. They ask me to request your Excellency, if possible, to prevent—at any rate for the present—the return of any refugees to Roumelia, as it only exposes them to persecution, and their women to outrage. These gentlemen say that the Russian soldiers, though rough, are not by nature cruel, which from what I saw last year, I fully believe; but they are indifferent, and if they do not encourage, at any rate permit, in many cases, the Bulgarians to maltreat the Turkish population. They further state, that the Russians show a great absence of decent feeling. The smaller mosques are systematically destroyed, the houses of the Turks pulled down, and their cemeteries defaced and defiled, both here and at Philippopolis. In riding up to these towns from the station you can see palpable evidences of these facts. The same gentlemen likewise complain of the unusual system of billeting pursued by the Intendance and the police, who put officers in respectable houses, turning out in many instances the members of the family. This may, perhaps, be allowable in time of war, but it can scarcely be usual to bring by force women of ill-fame into such houses. This, nevertheless, I am assured by M. Camara and other persons, was done by the Governor and Vice-Governor of Adrianople at the house of M. Badetti, a most respectable merchant here, at which the Vice-Governor was quartered, and which was occupied by M. Badetti's family at the time. As for the morality of this town, there are now 3,400 registered prostitutes, in a place where such a thing was almost wholly unknown.

Although M. Schnell and M. Mileoff spoke much on the question of the harvests and landed property, I shall refer to that subject hereafter, as our Commission discussed the matter with Prince Dondoukoff. Meanwhile, by way of showing the state of destitution to which even the better class of Turks have been reduced, I may cite an instance related to me by M. Camara, that of Emin Bey, well known here as a large proprietor, both of farmsteads and of houses in the town. This notable came to M. Camara yesterday to beg 10 piastres for his family, who are lying destitute in a small hovel.

I regret to state that Mr. Calvert of Philippopolis fully confirms the list I gave your Excellency of villages burnt by the Russian troops on the 28th and 29th May last. He gives the names of two additional villages. Thus the evidence comes from both sides.

With regard to Prince Dondoukoff I can only give the impressions received from an interview which lasted from 12 till 4. That impression, however, I may say is shared by all the members of the Commission except one. His Excellency is in manner an exaggerated General Ignatieff, a very great talker ("blagueur"). He began by making us a theatrical speech nearly an hour long. It was principally an eulogium of his good administration and of the blessings which the country had enjoyed since it came under his government. He came at last to business on the following points:—

1. The question of our safe-conduct. I am bound to say that in this, as indeed all through, the Prince was exceedingly polite. He offered us every facility in his power for passing and repassing the lines. We found, however, it would be impossible to communicate with the insurgent districts from this side, as we might be taken prisoners or fired at by the bands of insurgents now in the mountains, as his Excellency could give us no security beyond the Russian lines. We therefore determined to turn back and proceed by rail to Dedeagatch, and thence by way of Gumuldjina to Dospat.

2. As to the harvest which is now nearly over. On this point his Excellency favoured us with an explanation of his plan. It has at least the merit of perfect

simplicity. The harvests on all Turkish properties are being reaped by Bulgarians, who are to receive one-half of the crop, the other half being delivered to the Russian Government, either in grain or in money. The latter portion is to be kept in depôts until the 1st September, awaiting the claimants, who are to come to Philippopolis (or, I presume, Adrianople, as the case may be). If on presenting themselves they are not considered as "compromised" they are to receive their portion. By "compromised" the Prince explained that he meant accused of some crime by a Bulgarian. Persons in that category who presented themselves would be tried by a Tribunal composed of Bulgarians and presided over by a Russian President. Your Excellency will judge whether a more complete parody of justice could be enacted. A parallel case could be imagined were home were Ireland conquered by the Americans on behalf of the Fenians. What chance in Ireland would an English owner of the soil have, if he were allowed to take a portion of his crop, on condition that no Fenian said a word against him? We understood further from Prince Dondoukoff that this principle would afterwards be applied to the right of Turkish proprietors to their lands also. This, I venture to say, would simply result in wholesale confiscation, and I have little doubt that that is the real object in view.

3. As regards the reinstalment of Turkish refugees in their homes. On this point the Prince was explicit. He said the refugees would, in time, have permission to return to their homes, only, provided that they were not "compromised." I ventured to suggest that such things as amnesties had been heard of, but the reply was that so much "rancune" existed that it was impossible. His Excellency added furthermore that in various places which he named, such as the Valley of Tundja, Eski-Zaghra and Yeni-Zaghra, Slimin, and the Batak district, no reinstalment of refugees would be allowed. Knowing the country as I do from my tour last year, I stated that the whole of the Tundja Valley east of Kalofer was inhabited principally by Turks, and I mentioned that I had myself visited Mudlis, Yeni-Mahallé, Hain-Boghaz, and Hidja, all Turkish villages in the Tundja Valley, and all of which had been burnt. His Excellency said that that part of the country was now all occupied by Bulgarians whose villages had been destroyed. I replied that they ought to be turned out, and suggested that a regiment should be put in the district to keep order. His Excellency rejoined that if the Turkish Government would provide funds for rebuilding the destroyed Bulgarian villages this might be done, but not otherwise; and so the matter dropped.

I am not aware how long the Congress had decided that the Russian army may continue to occupy the portion of territory on this side of East Roumelia, but fresh troops continue to arrive here and are forwarded to the south, which certainly does not look like evacuation.

I may add that I am informed on the best authority, namely, by persons who have themselves been compelled to make presents of money, that the most open corruption prevails in the Russian Administration, equal to, if not exceeding, that which exists under the Turkish régime. The taxes are rigorously levied, and fresh ones imposed, whilst those hitherto in arrears are inexorably exacted. The following fact needs no comment. The Porte having remitted the taxes of those Bulgarian villages which had been injured or destroyed by the Bashi-Bazouks in 1876, the Russians insist on those taxes being paid at once.

I had hoped to be able to send your Excellency a brighter account of affairs, but hearing from all sides, Greeks, Turks, and even Bulgarians, the same story, one feels bound to believe it.

Your Excellency will receive by this opportunity from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul F. Calvert of Philippopolis, the report of a speech made by Prince Dondoukoff, which is well worthy of attention.

I have a good deal more to say, but time does not permit.

I have, &c.

(For H. Fawcett),

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, July* 20, 1878.

I am happy to be able at last to report to your Excellency that an improvement has lately taken place in the public security of this town and district. Prince

Dondoukoff has exerted himself, with some success, to put a stop to the outrages of which the Turks were the principal victims, and which had been a standing disgrace to the Russian Administration. The village of Peroushtitza—to mention an instance of the means by which comparative freedom from persecution has been secured to the Turks—was lately surrounded by a company of Russian infantry, and twenty of the most robust Bulgarians in the place were seized and flogged, because some of the inhabitants had carried off five horses belonging to a neighbouring Turkish village. The stolen animals not being produced, the Russians took five horses belonging to Peroushtitza and gave them to the Turks.

A great sensation has also been made by the condemnation to death of four Bulgarians, who were found guilty, before a court-martial, of murdering three unarmed Turks under circumstances of great atrocity. As it is already a fortnight, however, since the sentence was delivered, it is generally thought that it will not be carried out. Much false sentimentality has been expressed on the subject by both Russians and Bulgarians, and it is to be feared that an example which would have effectually established the equality of Christians and Mahommedans before the law, will not, after all, be given. Had such an example been made in the first week of the Russian occupation, all the lamentable excesses that have since taken place might have been prevented. But it appears probable that, even now, four months after the conclusion of peace, the Russian authorities will be deterred from doing a signal act of justice by those prejudices of race and creed which they have so conspicuously displayed at Philippopolis.

Short of cases of gross personal violence, of which I shall have to record one flagrant instance at the end of this despatch, but of which there has been a relative cessation during the past month, misdemeanours of various kinds are still far from uncommon. Robberies, both in town and in the country, are still frequent; but they no longer bear the stamp of persecution, the Turks not being now the only, or even the principal sufferers.

The Russo-Bulgarian authorities are apparently earnest in their efforts to put a stop to crimes of violence.

But while giving them full credit on this head, I am bound to state that, in other respects, they are still acting in a way that deserves the severest censure.

Since the beginning of this month, the destruction of Turkish houses, which had been interrupted for a time, has been renewed with greater activity than ever, and this time with the authority and participation of the police. It cannot be alleged that the houses destroyed stood in the way of the public improvements now in progress, as the work of destruction is going on in every part of the town, and not only along the main thoroughfares, which are being widened. It has been remarked that the renewal of the destruction of Turkish houses coincided, in point of time, with the arrival of the first reports that Bulgaria was to be confined to the country north of the Balkans. The tiles, woodwork, &c., of the houses are publicly sold by the police, the woodwork commanding a high price now owing to the scarcity of fuel.

The Turkish refugees are now paid for their work (not invariably, however) at the rate of half a franc a day and a loaf of bread. But the police, while paying the refugees, make the corvée as vexatious to the Turks as possible by impressing persons who have other means of subsistence, and are unused to manual labour.

Had the refugees been paid for the labour exacted from them at the beginning of the Russian occupation, the corvée would have been a great relief for them. Now, although they are paid half a franc a day, the corvée affords them no relief, but, on the contrary, constitutes a heavy tax on them, as the price of agricultural labour—at zero six months ago—has risen to 12 piastres (2½ fr.) per day, and as much as 20 piastres a day is paid for reapers, in which work the Turks can only engage in the rare intervals when the police afford them a day of rest.

Of the difficulties encountered by the few Turkish landed proprietors and merchants who have returned, in endeavouring to recover their sequestrated property, I have already, at different times, informed your Excellency. I need only state now, that heavy bribes continue to be the only medium by which these unfortunate people can recover such of their property as has not been sold or squandered, and that in general they are too impoverished to be able to pay the "douceurs" demanded of them.

Out of thirty mosques existing in Philippopolis, only one has as yet been restored to its legitimate use; the remainder are used as depots for provisions and ammunition.

One story of persecution of the most horrible nature, to which I have alluded elsewhere in this Report, has come to light within the last few days, and it is this that has obliged me to qualify as relative the immunity from outrage which the Turks may now be said to enjoy.

Yesterday a young Turkish woman came to me and made the following statement:—

Her name is Nazik, she is 23 years of age, and is a native of Bayuk-Himetly, in the district of Kyzanlik. Her husband, Seïd, died three months ago in this town, and she has no relative now living but an uncle, who is staying at Philippopolis.

With about 100 returned refugees from different villages, Nazik was sent away from Philippopolis two months ago. They bore a safe-conduct from the Russian authorities.

"When we left Philippopolis," she said, "we slept the first night at Tchirpely, the second night we stopped at Yünkioi, a Bulgarian village. The Russian soldiers who had been given us as an escort, had left us on the road and returned to town. At Yünkioi, the Bulgarians received us badly. They shut us all up in a barn about 30 feet square, men, women, and children together. It was then about the hour of evening prayer. Shortly afterwards the door of the barn was thrown open, and a crowd of Bulgarians rushed in among us, at their head a papass (priest). I cannot describe in detail what then took place, for I was ill, and lay helpless on the floor in a corner of the barn, my two children, one a girl of 12 months, the other only 10 days old at my side. The Bulgarians were all armed, some with swords and guns, others with axes, clubs, &c. They began by demanding money of us; they searched our persons and took the little money we had, beating us because we had not more. Then, after binding all the men among us, they rushed upon the women. Each man seized the first woman in his way, and dragged her into the fields and gardens around. They ravished every female of our party, down to girls of eight years."

Q. "Can you name any of the children who you say were outraged?"

A. "Yes; Hassan Prankalji's sister, Haziné, was only 8 years old; they violated her. Also Rushid's daughter, Zelhah, 10 years old, Yuzbashi's daughter, Urkieh, all of Bekioi.

"The priest himself violated Selim Basha's wife, Lutfieh, 24 years of age.

"In the confusion which took place when the Bulgarians were seizing the women, and the women resisting and trying to elude them, my two children were trodden under foot. I cried out, 'You are killing my children!' But one of the Bulgars, who carried a gun with fixed bayonet, turned round and thrust his weapon into the body of my eldest child. It only lived a few minutes longer. My baby died next evening of the injuries it received.

"The outraging of the women went on from shortly after sunset till the fourth or fifth hour of the night.

"In the morning we were allowed to proceed to Beykioi, which the Russian authorities had assigned to us as a residence.

"On the way to Beykioi, the family of Kouken Mehmed, consisting of himself, his wife, son, and daughter-in-law, were all murdered, having lagged behind the others, and been overtaken by Bulgarians.

"The life we have led at Beykioi for the last two months! God knows what it has been!

"Not a week has passed without some one of us, women, being forced to submit to the worst indignities. And if we resisted, which we know to be useless, beating, beating, beating! We have become like animals, and have forgotten what it is to feel shame.

"Until now the tchorbadjis of Beykioi would not allow any of us to come to town, because they feared we would come to town to complain. Two other women came with me to town. Six others remain at Beykioi, and they beg for the love of God to be allowed to escape from their persecutors.

"I was not outraged by the Bulgarians either at Yünkioi or Beykioi, because I was seriously ill till lately. One day, at Beykioi, they dragged me into a garden, but seeing that I was unable to walk or stand, they let me go.

"I could not identify any of our persecutors at Beykioi, but my companions can. I could recognize some of those who ill-treated us at Yünkioi. I have almost lost my mind. In the space of three months I have lost my mother, my husband, and three children. My eldest child, my husband, and my mother died in Philippopolis."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—I have just seen Hassan Ahmedoglou, a native of Beykioi, who states that he, with three other Turks, ran away from the Bulgarians at Yünkioi, and reached Philippopolis, where they made complaint at the first police-station; but that they were imprisoned for their pains.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopoli, July 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the reports that have reached here of the results of the Berlin Congress caused at first much perturbation among the Russians and the Bulgarians; but that the latter now take a less dissatisfied view of the arrangements reported to have been adopted in regard to their political future. They comfort themselves, for the exclusion of Thrace and Macedonia from the Bulgarian Principality, with the confident hope that a few years more will bring about the union of those provinces with the new State of Bulgaria. They are encouraged in this hope by the Russian authorities, and particularly by Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff.

At a fête champêtre given by some officers of the Legion to the principal Bulgarians of Philippopolis, his Excellency made a speech, of the significance of which your Excellency may judge by the following summary of his remarks, given me by a person who was present:—

Prince Dondoukoff commenced by informing his hearers that Russia, being unable to withstand the united Powers of Europe, had been obliged to consent to the separation of Bulgaria into two parts, and to the occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops; but the Bulgarians must not lose heart on account of this arrangement, which could only be temporary. The Turkish troops in the Balkans would be under restrictions in respect of their movements, and they would have in front and rear—to the north and south of them—a large Bulgarian population, conscious of its strength and independence. He (the Prince) would stay at Philippopolis only three months longer; at the end of that time he would transfer his head-quarters to Sofia; but 15,000 Bulgarian, and some Russian, troops would be left in occupation of the Philippopolis district. In conclusion, the Prince said that Russia had, in the San Stefano Treaty, knowing that the other Powers would raise objections to it, demanded much in order to obtain for the Slavs the minimum of advantages with which she could rest satisfied, and had now secured as much as she had ever expected to gain by the late war.

The above does not profess to be a literal rendering of the Imperial Commissioner's words, nor can I vouch for its strict correctness as to the substance of his remarks; but I cannot doubt that the information is, in the main, true.

I should add that all the sentiments expressed by Prince Dondoukoff on this occasion, and especially the idea that Russia has been a gainer by the late war, are not shared by the Russian officers and members of the Administration, who unanimously declare that Russia will have again to draw the sword as soon as she has sufficiently recruited her exhausted strength.

In the meantime it is to be remarked that no interruption has taken place in those public works which the Russians have undertaken here. The work of widening the streets continues, and a number of houses in the vicinity of the Konak have been utterly doomed to destruction. The space which they occupy is, I understand, to be utilised for the erection of a Government-house and gardens.

The existing metalled road to Carlowa is being continued from that place to Lowfcha, by way of the Troyan Pass, and the Turkish returned refugees of the district furnish the required labour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 42.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 942.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 17th instant, instructing me to bring to the notice of Prince Labanoff the conduct of the Russian troops near the Gulf of Saros, in making two officers of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" prisoners and in firing upon one of her boats, I have the honour to state that, not being able to call upon the Prince myself, I requested Mr. Malet to see his Excellency on the subject. The Russian Ambassador replied that he had heard nothing of the occurrence, and requested Mr. Malet to tell me that he was as much surprised to hear of it as I could be, and that he would at once ask for explanations in the proper quarter.

I have not heard again on the subject from Prince Labanoff; but as Admiral Hornby has sent me a copy of his correspondence with General Todleben on the matter, and as the Russian Commander-in-chief has directed full inquiries to be made into it, and has promised to communicate the result to the Admiral, I have not thought it necessary to take any further action without receiving such instructions as your Lordship may think fit to give me after you have learnt what has passed between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 43.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 943.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts (in translation) from an article published in the "Lirakir," a leading Armenian newspaper, on the advantage to the Armenians of the occupation of the Island of Cyprus by England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Extracts from an Article in the "Lirakir."

(Traduction.)

QUESTION ARMÉNIENNE.—L'ŒUVRE DU CONGRÈS.—Par un précédent article nous avions déclaré que c'est du Congrès que nous attendions notre sécurité et l'amélioration de notre sort; nous espérions qu'on exaucerait nos vœux qui jusqu'ici sont dépourvus du poids de l'expérience, et qui consistaient à admettre les moyens que nous proposions et à nous en laisser l'exécution; vœux dont il y a trois mois nous avons traité le degré de possibilité en disant que nous devons donner une telle forme à nos propositions qu'au lieu de nous exposer à la risée du monde, nous puissions prouver par notre conduite que nous sommes une nation intelligente et prudente. Voilà qu'aujourd'hui le cours des événements politiques a porté les affaires Arméniennes à un tel point que l'amélioration que nous convoitions nous vient d'un côté que nous étions loin d'attendre et d'espérer.

L'Angleterre a pris Chypre; elle a fait un Traité avec la Turquie à qui elle a imposé l'obligation d'exécuter, sous le contrôle Anglais, les mesures adoptées d'un commun accord à l'effet d'assurer et améliorer le sort de tous les Chrétiens en Asie.

Que l'Europe considère comme elle veut l'acquisition de Chypre et le Traité Anglo-Turc; mais ceci est pour nous et pour tous les peuples d'Asie un bien inestimable. Il suffit seulement que l'Angleterre sans s'embarquer dans les désastres d'une autre guerre (dont les signes précurseurs semblent être aperçus) puisse avoir un moment tranquille pour faire exécuter en Asie les améliorations qu'elle a promises et dont elle a fait l'objet d'un Traité.

Elle a un grand intérêt à rétablir la sécurité dans ces contrées, car tout en exigeant l'Asie en un rempart pour son Empire des Indes, elle en fera un centre du commerce et des intérêts Européens. Et l'Angleterre elle-même ne peut pas établir

son commerce là où il n'y a pas de sécurité. Par conséquent l'Angleterre sera obligée de faire les améliorations nécessaires aux habitants de l'Asie soit dans un sens politique, soit économique.

L'avantage et l'utilité de ce nouveau Traité Anglo-Turc est pour nous celui-ci: l'Angleterre par ce Traité acquiert le droit de veiller à l'exécution des améliorations qui doivent se faire. Ce contrôle ne saurait s'effectuer si ce n'est en nommant des Consuls presque dans toutes les villes d'Asie; et ces Consuls auraient en même temps la mission de donner des conseils à l'autorité locale et de contrôler les améliorations; ce qui permettra en même temps aux Chrétiens de la localité d'aller déposer leurs plaintes devant le Consul Anglais, s'ils sont l'objet d'une injustice. Tandis que jusqu'à ce jour il n'y avait que quatre ou cinq Consuls dans toute l'Asie, et ils étaient au siége principal de chaque province, loin des souffrances des peuples, que pouvaient-ils faire jusqu'ici? Tandis que désormais il n'en sera pas de même.

Ceci est un bienfait pour l'Asie Mineure où se trouve la majorité des Arméniens; un bienfait que nous désirions et que nous tourmentions nos esprits pour découvrir le moyen de l'acquérir. Notre chance nous a aidée, le hasard nous l'a procuré, et la combinaison des événements a contribué à ce que le bien que nous désirions soit procuré d'une manière sûre au lieu d'acquérir nous-mêmes d'une façon douteuse. Que nous fallait-il? Sécurité de la vie, des biens, et de l'honneur; égalité des droits civils, et liberté religieuse. N'était-ce pas notre désir? Il a été accompli, et les Arméniens pourront bientôt jouir de ce triple bienfait en Arménie, grâce au Gouvernement Anglais.

Là où la main et l'influence Anglaise existe la pauvreté et le malheur disparaissent comme l'obscurité devant la lumière; car Angleterre et pauvreté sont deux idées incompatibles.

Il est indubitable que dans peu de temps l'Arménie sera améliorée, organisée, enrichie, illuminée, et florissante; l'obscurité, l'ignorance, et la misère en seront chassées, et pour que ces dernières ne nous emportent pas avec elles, il faut que nous embrassions cet esprit de lumière et de progrès; il faut que nous profitions de ce nouvel état de l'Arménie. Quant au moyen de nous prévaloir de cet état nous l'expliquerons dans un prochain article; nous nous contentons aujourd'hui de declarer que la nation Arménienne, loin d'avoir à s'affliger de l'œuvre du Congrès, a, au contraire, le droit de s'en réjouir.

No. 44.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 944.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 25, 1878.*

YAKOUB KHAN, of Kashgar, with whom, I believe, your Lordship is personally acquainted, informs me that the occupation of Cyprus by England has been very favourably received by the most intelligent and enlightened Mussulmans at Constantinople. They consider, he says, that the friendly hand held out to Turkey by England may save her from ruin, and that the example of the good effects of British rule and the prosperity which the island will obtain under it, will lead to a real improvement in the administration, and to the introduction of those reforms which are so necessary to the welfare of the country and to the well-being of its inhabitants of all classes. As Yakoub Khan resides in Constantinople and sees a good deal of the leading Turks, this information coming from him may be considered trustworthy. He tells me that he saw the Sultan three days ago, and that His Majesty expressed himself highly delighted with the Convention he had entered into with England, and expected that his country and his people would derive great benefit from it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 45.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 917.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose Mr. Longworth's report upon the Provinces of Thessaly and Epirus; it is accompanied by a Greek report upon the same subject which has been translated here.

I also transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches from Consul Blunt; translations of the Turkish documents which he forwards will be sent by next mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Report by Mr. Longworth upon Thessaly and Epirus.

THE Provinces of Thessaly and Epirus form respectively the eastern and western portions of the southern extremity of European Turkey. They are separated from each other by a range of the Pindus Mountains, inaccessible in height, except at the steep and dangerous pass of Metzovo.

In their administrative division, these provinces constitute the "vilayet" or territory of Yanina, comprising five "sandjaks" or counties: Larissa, Preveza, Yanina, Argyrocastro, and Berat, which are further subdivided into twenty-five "cazas" or districts, containing seventeen "nahiyas" or cantons.

The Tribunals of these sandjaks are four in number, viz.:—

(1.) The "Idareh Medjilish," or Government Council, composed of a Governor (Mutessarif), a Justice of Peace (Moula), a High Priest (Mufti), a Treasurer (Moussahebigi), an Archbishop (Despot), and two Mussulman and Christian members (Azas).

(2.) The "Tehmiz Medjilish," or Court of Justice, is presided over by a Moula, and attended by two Mussulman, a Christian, and a Jewish Aza.

(3.) The "Tidjareh Medjilish," or Commercial Tribunal, is composed of a Turkish President, two ordinary or permanent members, and two extraordinary or temporal members of the Christian and Mahommedan communities.

(4.) The "Belidieh Medjilish," or Board of Works, consists of a Mahommedan President appointed by Government, a Christian Vice-President elected by public vote, a Medical Attendant, an Architect, and an equal number of Christian and Mahommedan Azas.

The administrative functions of this vilayet are mostly carried out in a slovenly and desultory manner.

In the Courts corruption is very prevalent, Christian witnesses are rarely accepted, and justice is frequently sold; in short, perversion is so great among the officials that their procedure is easily biased by mere bribery, intrigue, or fanaticism.

Scarcely any expenditure on public improvement is perceptible. The streets are simply filthy, and, if at all, badly paved, with here and there pools of stagnant water. There are few modern roads and bridges in construction, and the old ones are quite dangerous from want of repair, so much so that I had frequently to wander miles out of my course to avoid a precipice or cross a river.

The only postal communications that exist are in connection with the capitals and the seaport towns. The telegraphic service is on a more extensive scale, it works along the frontier, and with most of the principal towns of the interior.

The annual income derived from these provinces is more than ample for a better state of things. The following is an approximate statement of the principal financial resources of the vilayet. There is rarely any material increase or decrease in these numbers, unless it be a deficiency caused latterly by the introduction of Caimais in circulation, which has been more than retrieved by the amount of double taxation: —

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Vilayet of Yanina.

Revenue.	Sandjak of					Vilayet of Janina.
	Larissa.	Preveza.	Yanina.	Argyrocastro.	Berat.	
	T. L.	T. L.	T. L.	T. L.	T. L.	T. L.
From property	44,000	7,000	22,000	10,000	9,000	92,000
"Hedel" exemption ..	27,000	7,000	23,000	10,000	4,000	71,000
Productions	132,000	25,000	40,000	27,000	32,000	256,000
Sheep and goats	72,000	13,000	18,000	12,000	11,000	126,000
Trade	12,000	6,000	6,000	5,000	10,000	39,000
Crown and other estates ..	9,000	9,000	11,000	4,000	12,000	45,000
Revenue, in liras ..	296,000	67,000	120,000	68,000	78,000	629,000
Expenditure, in liras ..	42,000	14,700	53,000	16,800	14,100	140,600
Surplus, in liras ..	254,000	52,300	67,000	51,200	63,900	488,400

Thessaly and Epirus are not so distinct in their natural resources as they are in their physical aspects. The soil, the climate, and the industrial capabilities of the one are much the same as those of the other, both in the highlands and in the lowlands.

The productions are a variety of cereals, tobacco, olive, flax, cotton, silk, and wine. The indigenous fruits are the apple, pear, fig, peach, apricot, quince, pomegranate, cherry, plum, orange, and lemon. In the mountain heights of the first altitude are seen the oak, pine, beech, and elm, whilst the lower levels are covered with the plane tree and the cypress, the walnut and the chesnut.

The mineral resources of these provinces have not yet been geologically surveyed. Some deposits of iron, copper, lead, coal, and pitch, however, have been discovered.

The commercial prosperity of the vilayet is much below its relative wealth. The following shipping returns show the proportion which imports bear to exports:—

(No. 1.)—Imports and Exports at Volo.

Nationality.	Number of—		Value of—		Remarks.
	Steamships.	Sailing-vessels.	Imports.	Exports.	
			£	£	
French	109	..	93,000	190,000	Trade by the "Peninsular" steamers.
Austrian	52	..	64,000	80,000	Ditto by the "Lloyd" steamers.
Turkish	..	58	7,500	16,000	
Greek	..	48	11,000	9,800	
Italian	..	14	7,200	43,060	
English	2	..	800	..	With cargo of coals.
Russian	..	1	140	..	
American	..	1	920	1,280	
Total for the year 1876 ..	163	122	181,360	340,080	

(No. 2.)—Imports and Exports at Preveza.

Austrian	54	2	79,500	55,500	The steamers are the "Lloyd."
Greek	..	991	12,800	15,000	
Turkish	..	1,030	12,000	14,000	
Italian	..	37	2,700	1,600	
English	..	2	1,400	1,200	General cargo.
Total for the year 1877 ..	54	2,122	108,500	88,300	

(No. 3.)—Imports and Exports at Santi Quaranta.

Austrian	136	..	22,000	7,500	Trade by the "Lloyd" steamers.
Turkish	..	186	2,800	1,800	
Greek	..	91	1,500	1,000	
Total for the year 1877 ..	136	277	26,300	10,300	

(No 4.)—Imports and Exports at Avlona

Nationality.	Number of—		Value of—		Remarks.
	Steam-ships.	Sailing-vessels.	Imports.	Exports.	
			£	£	
Austrian	101	37	62,800	90,400	Trade by the "Lloyd" steamers.
Greek	..	168	35,800	32,500	
Turkish	..	256	14,500	27,100	
Italian	..	27	1,100	1,000	
English	1	..	300	600	With money.
Total for the year 1877 ..	105	488	114,500	151,600	

(No. 5.)—Total Imports and Exports into and from the Vilayet of Yanina.

Seaport Town.	Number of—		Value of—	
	Steam-ships.	Sailing-ships.	Imports.*	Exports.*
			£	£
For 1876—				
At the Port of Volo	103	122	101,360	340,080
For 1877—				
At the Port of Prevesa	61	2,122	108,500	88,300
" " St. Quaranta	136	279	26,300	10,300
" " Avlona	105	488	114,500	151,600
Total	458	3,011	350,660	590,280

* Total imports and exports £940,940.

With regard to the populations of this vilayet, I should first state that there is no exact census or anything like reliable statistical information obtainable on the subject.

The estimates given below, however, in round numbers, may be considered as not far from correct, though they are chiefly based on mere surmise and calculation.

(No. 1.)—Populations in Sandjak of Larissa, Thessaly.

District.	Christians.			Mahommedans.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Larissa	30,000	34,000	64,000	9,000	10,000	19,000	83,000
Volo	24,000	26,000	50,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	52,000
Trikala	33,000	37,000	70,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	72,000
Karditza	21,000	27,000	51,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	55,000
Elassona	17,000	18,000	35,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	39,000
Pharsala	7,000	8,000	15,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	19,000
Armyro	5,000	5,000	10,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	12,000
Grand total ..	140,000	155,000	295,000	18,000	19,000	37,000	332,000

(No. 2.)—Populations in Sandjak of Prevesa.

Prevesa	5,000	6,000	11,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	13,000
Arta	16,000	18,000	34,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	36,000
Margaritti	4,000	4,000	8,000	7,000	8,000	15,000	23,000
Parga	2,000	2,000	4,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	6,000
Grand total ..	27,000	30,000	57,000	10,000	11,000	21,000	78,000

(No. 3.)—Populations in Sandjak of Yanina.

Yanina	50,000	50,000	100,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	110,000
Metzovo	4,000	5,000	11,000	..	..	..	11,000
Grevena	17,000	19,000	36,000	4,000	5,000	9,000	45,000
Paramithia	6,000	7,000	13,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	19,000
Philiat	7,000	8,000	15,000	5,000	6,000	11,000	26,000
Konitza	11,000	12,000	23,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	29,000
Grand total ..	95,000	107,000	204,000	17,000	19,000	36,000	340,000

(No. 4.)—Populations in Sandjak of Argyrocastro.

District.	Christians.			Mahommedans.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Argyrocastro	9,000	10,000	19,000	6,000	7,000	13,000	32,000
Pogoni	10,000	11,000	21,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	31,000
Premeti	8,000	9,000	17,000	10,000	11,000	21,000	38,000
Delvino	7,000	8,000	15,000	7,000	8,000	15,000	30,000
Tepelen	3,000	3,000	6,000	9,000	10,000	19,000	25,000
Chimara	12,000	13,000	25,000	..	..	..	25,000
Grand total ..	49,000	54,000	103,000	37,000	41,000	78,000	181,000

(No. 5.)—Populations in Sandjak of Berat.

Berat	15,000	17,000	32,000	31,000	35,000	66,000	98,000
Scrapari	1,000	1,000	2,000	5,000	6,000	11,000	13,000
Tiuoritzi	..	..	..	4,000	5,000	9,000	9,000
Avlona	2,000	2,000	4,000	11,000	12,000	23,000	27,000
Grand total ..	18,000	20,000	38,000	51,000	58,000	109,000	147,000

(No. 6.)—Total Populations in Vilayet of Yanina.

County.	Christians.			Mahommedans.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Sandjak of—							
Larissa	140,000	155,000	295,000	18,000	19,000	37,000	332,000
Prevesa	27,000	30,000	57,000	10,000	11,000	21,000	78,000
Yanina	95,000	107,000	204,000	17,000	19,000	36,000	240,000
Argyrocastro ..	49,000	54,000	103,000	37,000	41,000	78,000	181,000
Berat	18,000	20,000	38,000	51,000	58,000	109,000	147,000
Grand total ..	329,000	366,000	697,000	133,000	148,000	281,000	978,000

In the last Table an abstract is given of the populations of the Vilayet of Yanina. The grand total numbers up to 978,000 souls, of which 697,000 are Christians and 281,000 are Mussulmans. The indigenous people of Thessaly and Epirus are of the Greek race, creed, and language. They either inhabit as their own the remote towns and villages of the mountains, or are found in the plains as the tenants of farms and estates.

They are a people generally of a disposition rather servile and deceitful, though well endowed with intelligence, aptitude, and perseverance. Their chief energies are directed towards commercial, industrial, and agricultural pursuits of a small, simple, and primitive kind. Their manufactures are cotton and woollen stuffs, carpets and shawls, of domestic fabrication, with dyeing and printing works.

That decisive (*sic*) zest and eagerness for intellectual advancement are just as much displayed in these parts as elsewhere. Every one of their hamlets contains a well-frequented rudimentary school, and in towns of even moderate pretensions elementary lessons are taught in classics and mathematics.

This fact becomes more surprising when it is remembered that no portion of the public revenue is devoted to the work, and that it is solely the results of a strenuous effort on the part of the people. The following Table shows the number of the principal Greek schools in the vilayet. Those of a grade for children are not enumerated in the list.

Principal Greek Schools in Vilayet of Yanina.

Sandjak.	Schools.	Pupils.
Yanina	170	6,000
Larissa	61	7,500
Prevesa	25	3,000
Argyrocastro	103	5,000
Berat	29	600
Total	187	22,100

That the Greek Rayahs of Thessaly and Epirus are disaffected against the Turkish Government is now an undoubted fact. These feelings were principally engendered by the acts of violence, injustice, and rapacity so frequently practised upon them with the greatest impunity. The Greek emissaries must have therefore found it an easy task to incite an insurrection amongst a people so exasperated, as well as the Russian Consulates, which had no small share in these intrigues, with the ostensible object in view of rendering the presence of a Turkish force necessary in the south while hostilities were going on in the north.

The Greek race in Thessaly predominates in number above the rest. In Epirus it extends, as a continuous whole, as far north as the Sandjak of Argyrocastro, where it begins to intermingle with the Albanian element. In fact, the people beyond Tepelen and Premeti do not speak the Greek language except in the Greek colonies of Avlona.

The following is a list of the relative number of Greek and Albanian villages in the Sandjah of Argyrocastro:—

NUMBER of Greek and Albanian Villages in Sandjak of Argyrocastro.

District.	Number of Villages.	Religion.			Language.	
		Christian.	Mahommedan.	Mixed.	Greek.	Albanian.
Argyrocastro	69	60	5	4	45	24
Delvino	115	93	21	1	83	32
Chimara	7	7	..	..	4	3
Pogoni	44	40	3	1	44	..
Premeti	120	38	81	1	..	120
Tepelen	61	17	43	1	..	61
Total	416	255	153	8	176	240

The Albanians of Epirus are composed of three tribes, distinct from each other in manners and customs.

The first is known by the name of "Zoska," which is particularly applicable, though an ordinary designation for all southern Albanians, to the people inhabiting the Sandjak of Berat, and numbering upwards of 140,000 souls.

Among these Zoskas the Christians have adopted the dress and habits of the Mahommedans, and are in no way to be distinguished from them except in their religious observances.

The "Liaps" come next in importance; they inhabit the country north-west of Argyrocastro, and number 100,000 souls. An inverse movement has here been in operation, for the Mahommedans have so far conformed to the customs of the Christians that even female seclusion is not in vogue.

Different in many respects are the "Tchams," the tribe inhabiting the western parts of the Sandjak of Prevesa, and numbering 20,000 souls. They are considered to be the most fanatic, rapacious, and ferocious of the Albanian race. They certainly form an exception with regard to religious animosity, for among the Mussulmans and Christians of the other tribes the difference of belief is merely nominal, and toleration is very great.

During my travels in Epirus I was assured on several occasions that there are Albanian emissaries, from the Albanian colonies in Italy, working among these people to secure an Italian influence. Should the disasters of the Turkish Empire be so great, I was also told, as to cause part of its dissolution, serious movements in these parts are to be apprehended. For the Albanians, never more than passive in their loyalty to the Sultan, would then endeavour to throw off the rule and assert their independence. As it is, most of the districts of Argyrocastro and Berat are under no real civil authority, but are kept up from a state of anarchy by the personal influence and control of the Albanian Chiefs.

The Turkish population of Ottoman origin in Thessaly and Epirus are called Koniars. They are an ancient emigration from Konia, in Asia Minor, and inhabit, as a continuous whole, only the Province of Thessaly, where they are settled in the richest plains and valleys to the number of 37,000.

Though they speak the Turkish language, the Koniars also use the Greek vernacular in their intercourse with the indigenous people.

The fanaticism of this race is almost proverbial, their ignorance and laziness is immense, and their estates are usually either mortgaged or entailed.

I have been informed that there is a gradual decrease of their numbers, which is principally caused by an obnoxious practice among the women of impeding the birth of more than two children, in order to preserve their good looks.

The existence of this practice is sufficiently proved by the scarcity of Turkish children all over the country.

With regard to the Wallach population of these provinces, I beg to repeat the information I furnished on a previous occasion.

The Greco-Wallachs, who call themselves "Romani," and are better known in this country by the appellation of "Koutzo Vlachs," are, according to their traditions, the descendants of the Roman legions that conquered Macedonia, although we read in Byzantine history of Wallachian tribes emigrating to the south during the eleventh century.

Their language bears a resemblance to the Latin idiom, with a very considerable admixture, of Greek, Turkish, and Albanian words. It is spoken in domestic life, though the Greek language is very generally known amongst them and made use of in their more important intercourses.

The chief distribution of this race is along the Pindus range of mountains, with Metzovo as the centre and principal town.

In Thessaly only three or four villages of Mount Olympus, in the district of Elassona, are inhabited by them, the more important community of which is that of "Vlacholivado." The following is an estimate in round numbers of the Wallach population in these provinces:—

NUMBER of Wallachs in Thessaly and Epirus.

District or Canton.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Metzovo	3,500	4,200	7,700
Zagora	7,200	8,000	15,200
Grevena	2,100	2,700	4,800
Malacasi	2,000	2,900	4,900
Vlahia	2,400	2,600	5,000
Elassona			
Total	20,500	25,100	45,700

The Wallachs of these provinces bear scarcely any resemblance to the 12,000 of the same origin that inhabit the Kingdom of Greece, except that they too are a quick, intelligent, and laborious people.

Their principal calling is the rearing of sheep and goats, in pursuit of which about 14,000 of them yearly leave their mountain homes from April to October, and descend into the rich plains of Thessaly.

Their intellectual development and religious persuasion are the same as those of the Greek race; and though they have retained in part their original language and social manners, yet, owing to the identity of their condition and surrounding influences, they are actuated in politics by Greek tendencies as well as Greek aspirations and sympathies.

The information upon Thessaly contained in the inclosed copy of a Greek report will be found interesting. It has been furnished me by some of the more trustworthy and prominent men of the Greek community at Larissa, who are known to have the best means at their disposal for gathering facts upon what concerns this province.

Larissa, July 3, 1878.

(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Report.

(Traduction du Grec.)

Thessalie. Chef-lieu Larisse.

Question 1. *Délimitation et Produits.*—La Thessalie du côté du nord se rattache à la Macédoine par le Mont Olimpe, de l'ouest à l'Epire par le Pinde, du sud à la Grèce

libre par l'Othrys, et de l'est, elle aboutit à la Mer Egée. Administrativement elle est un Montessariflik du Gouvernement général ou Vilayet de Janina. C'est un pays de plaines et la terre en est très-fertile. Les produits consistent en céréales, coton, tabac, soie, vin, huile, laine, beurre, fromage, &c. La quantité de ces produits est insignifiante, si l'on considère la fertilité et l'étendue du sol, et cela provient de ce que la culture en est défectueuse à cause de la rareté de la main-d'œuvre et du peu d'appui du Gouvernement.

Question 2. *Population et Religion.*—La totalité de la population monte à 338,850, dont 278,000 sont Grecs de la réligion Orthodoxe, 37,200 Musulmans, et 3,650 Juifs. On devrait y ajouter 14,000 Bergers Valaques, et 3,000 Bulgares, maçons qui, pendant l'été, rentrent chez eux, ainsi que 2,000 Guegues, et 1,100 émigrés Circassiens. Plusieurs villages Chrétiens des montagnes sont des Kefalohoria, c'est-à-dire la terre y appartient aux habitants, tandisque ceux de la plaine sont en général des fermes Musulmanes. Les villages Musulmanes sont tous Kefalohoria.

Question 3. *Etat du Pays sous le point de vue du développement matérial et intellectuel.*—Parmi les Musulmans, habitants des villes, les uns sont de riches propriétaires de fermes et ils vivent de leurs rentes, d'autres sont des fonctionnaires du Gouvernement. Il y a aussi un petit nombre d'artisans. Les villageois Musulmans cultivent leurs propres terres et sont dans un état nisé. Quant aux Chrétiens, les uns sont habitants des fermes (et ce sont les trois quarts) travaillant plutôt pour le profit des propriétaires et qui, étant soumis à des taxes très-lourdes, sont pauvres et misérables. Les habitants Chrétiens des villages qui n'ont pas de servitudes, ainsi que ceux des villes, sont adonnés à l'industrie et au commerce et prospèrent. Les Musulmans se trouvent dans un état de crasse ignorance, attendu qu'il y a à peine trois ans que le Gouvernement a établi une école centrale à Larisse. Partout ailleurs il n'y a presque pas une seule école Musulmane, tandis que les Chrétiens, malgré leur pauvreté entretiennent eux-mêmes un grand nombre d'écoles.

Question 4. *Etat de Voies de Communication Télégraphes et Postes.*—Il n'y a aucune route carossable, point de ponts ou d'autres travaux d'art, et les communications sont très-difficiles tant en été qu'en hiver. Le Gouvernement ne s'en est jamais soucié. Le télégraphe relie Larisse avec les chef-lieux de quelques provinces, et il y a un service postal entre Volo, Larisse, Tricala, et Janina, mais il n'a lieu une fois par semaine et il est très-mal organisé.

Question 5. *La Justice.*—L'état des Tribunaux est déplorable. La justice est achetée, et jamais un Chrétien n'a gagné son procès contre un Musulman, ou bien s'il l'a gagné, il n'a jamais réussi à obtenir exécution de la sentence. Les Chrétiens, sujets étrangers, ne sont pas exempts de cette règle. Le témoignage de tous les Consuls en fait foi.

Question 6. *Brigandage et causes.*—La première cause du brigandage fut l'oppression du Chrétien qui, dans son désespoir pour l'impunité de son oppresseur Musulman, se livrait au brigandage; la seconde, ce fut la haine du travail et le désir d'échapper à la justice et à la conscription des Albanais Musulmans; et la troisième la conduite scandaleuse des gardes frontières Albanais qui, au lieu de poursuivre les brigands, s'entendaient avec eux. Il y a eu un moment de regret, lorsque la Porte, ayant eu à cet égard une entente sincère avec la Grèce, y avait envoyé Mehemet Aali Pacha. Malheureusement, après le départ de ce fonctionnaire, tout est retombé dans le premier état deplorable.

Question 7. *Quantité de Troupes Régulières ou Irrégulières et comment elles se comportent.*—De troupes regulières de différentes armes il y en a 11,020 qui, en général, se comportent assez bien à peu d'exceptions près. Quant aux irreguliers, il y en eut jusqu'à 1,075 en tout, sous différents chefs. Ici le rapporter fait le récit détaillé des désordres que ses derniers ont impunément commis.

Question 8. *Industrie et Commerce.*—Ils sont très-restreints, à cause du manque des voies de communication et le peu d'appui de la part du Gouvernement. Le peu de commerce et d'industrie qui existe est entre les mains des Chrétiens.

Question 9. *Tolérance Religieuse et Liberté Individuelle.*—Le fanatisme des Musulmans est indescriptible; ils considèrent les Chrétiens comme étant pire que les chiens, et ils les traitent en conséquence. La liberté individuelle d'un Chrétien vivant sous le joug Turc est un vain nom. Les Chrétiens sont journellement insultés, bafoués, battus, sans espoir d'obtenir justice. Jamais aucun ordre du Gouvernement concernant l'égalité des sujets du Sultan et la liberté individuelle n'a pu être mis en pratique dans ce pays. Il n'y a ni imprimerie ni journaux de la localité. Quant aux journaux étrangers, il n'y pénètrent que secrètement.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 17, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 2nd ultimo and of the 5th instant, relative to the intended movement in North Albania to oppose any decision of Congress for territorial cessions to Servia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, or Greece, I hasten to inclose, for the information of your Excellency, a paper containing copies in Turkish of the declaration which was drawn up by the Representatives of the various districts in North Albania, assembled at Prisrend for the purpose of discussing and finally determining the action to be taken in view of the circumstances. The paper also gives copies of the telegrams which the said assembly addressed on the subject to the foreign Ambassadors at Constantinople, and to the Sublime Porte. The above documents were given to me by a person in whose knowledge and trustworthiness I have confidence, and I regret I am not in time to prepare translations of them for your Excellency.

The declaration which I have marked A is composed of sixteen Articles, some of which specify the arrangements to be adopted in conjunction with other Turkish districts to oppose their severance from the Ottoman dominion. I have not been able to ascertain whether the Turkish notables here and in other towns of Thessaly have taken any action in the matter, but there is no doubt that their sentiments are strongly in its favour, and I observe, in my intercourse with them, that the report of the annexation of Thessaly to Greece has caused much general irritation and discontent, which, however, has in some measure been allayed by a telegram received here on the 14th instant from the Governor-General of Epirus intimating (confidentially) to the authorities that "the Porte has resolved not to cede an inch of territory to Greece."

With reference to the action of the Mahommedans in Epirus, I have seen a letter of recent date from Prisrend, stating that the districts of Berat and Argyrocastro, as well as that of Monastir, have joined the movement in North Albania, and have sent delegates to the assembly at Prisrend.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 45.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 17, 1878.

Sir,

SINCE my last report, dated the 10th instant, upon the disturbed state of this province, owing to the numerous bands of robbers infesting chiefly the mountain districts, the energy employed by the military authorities has in some degree succeeded in checking the evil. No less than forty-five brigands have been captured and brought to Larissa within the past fortnight, including twelve deserters (Mahommedan Albanians) of the "Hodoodirjé" frontier guard.

In the district of Armyro a patrol pursued and dispersed a band of twelve robbers, killing one and capturing two, one of whom was wounded.

In the district of Allassona, the robber chief Yanni Tehora was killed and five of his men wounded in an encounter with the military, and again in the same district the robber chief Anastas, with five of his men, fell into an ambush and were all captured alive.

In the district of Tirnova, about a week ago, a cavalry patrol suddenly came upon a band of sixteen robbers. A desperate conflict ensued, in which six of the brigands were killed and five wounded. The officer commanding the patrol (a lieutenant) was mortally wounded. A corporal was killed on the spot, and a private wounded. A native Greek peasant, who had been seized as hostage by these robbers, was released. But I regret having to report to your Excellency that some of the men of this patrol cut off the heads of three of the dead, and carried them to the town of Tirnova, where they exposed them in a han (public inn) and publicly subjected them to gross and barbarous treatment.

Upon learning the latter fact I immediately brought it to the notice of the Governor and of the military authorities, and in expressing to them my indignation I urged that steps should be at once taken to punish the authors of it, and to take other measures to prevent a repetition of acts which reflect discredit on the Turkish troops. The Governor at once despatched an express to Tirnova with orders to that

effect, and has issued a circular on the subject to all the sub-Governors in the province.

Ali Saib Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, after expressing to me his deep regret at such an occurrence, assured me that he had caused the perpetrators to be put in irons, and has issued an order of the day to the district Commanders severely reproving such acts, and holding them personally responsible for any recurrence of the same.

It appears that the perpetrators are Albanians recently recruited from Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 46.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 950.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Blakeney at Prevesa, reporting the existence of brigandage in Epirus, and the arrival of fresh troops from the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, July 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that two or three transports, conveying troops from Constantinople, arrived here to-day, about noon, and anchored outside the Straits. The above troops are, I suppose, but part of those that were expected to arrive; for, according to Ali Pasha, who commands the troops in this sandjak, twelve battalions of infantry and three batteries of artillery had left Constantinople, bound for Prevesa.

This reinforcement of regular troops has, no doubt, given satisfaction to all right-minded people, whether they be Turks or Christians, for their presence here was anxiously looked forward to as they will, no doubt, contribute greatly to restore order in Epirus, the unsettled state of which district is, I regret to say, much to be deplored. Scarcely a day passes without our receiving the news of some fresh act of brigandage, often accompanied by murder, having been committed.

Within the last few days the villages of Conitza, Conispoti, and Carbonaro are said to have been the scenes of plunder and murder.

Bands of brigands, composed chiefly of runaway Redifs and Mustafizis, infest the rural districts, and most of the highways appear to be under the absolute control of this set of ruffians. It is now to be hoped, however, that with the assistance of these regular troops a stop will be put to these disgraceful proceedings.

The chief local authorities, I have no doubt, have done their best to cope with this evil, but, up to the present moment, the means at their disposal to restore order must have been very inadequate, for a few battalions of Albanian Redifs and Mustafizis was all they could dispose of; and when one thinks that brigandage is recruited from their ranks, and that their chief virtue is insubordination, one cannot but pity the authorities for the painful, but responsible, position they necessarily found themselves in.

The presence in Epirus of Roumelian or Asiatic troops is absolutely indispensable if the Turco-Greek frontier is to be altered, for it is impossible to conceal that the Albanians hate their Greek neighbours more than ever; and I deem it my duty to repeat what, on a previous occasion, I had the honour to report to your Excellency, that any rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier will, I fear, lead to bloodshed, unless some European Power intervenes, or, I now add, the Central Government takes the precaution to disband the Albanian Redifs and Mustafizis.

An encounter took place on Sunday last between the Imperial troops and a band of insurgents at Radovizi. The Turkish loss was one killed and two wounded, besides

three horses, and the insurgents are said to have lost seventeen men killed. Ali Pasha, who communicated to me the above, appears to be under the impression that they were not insurgents, but Greek troops. This, I believe, is somewhat improbable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 951.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of private letter from Mr. Consul Reade, respecting affairs at Shumla and Varna, in connection with the Commission which has been appointed to negotiate the evacuation of those fortresses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
Dear Sir Henry, *Rustchuk, July 22, 1878.*

I HAVE just reached this from Shumla, where, as I said in my last note to your Excellency, I was going to see about the refugees.

The Commission was there taking measures for their repatriation, but as many of them are in a state of utter destitution, this will take much more time than the Russians appear disposed to accede to.

The number of utterly destitute refugees is about 80,000. The Government resources are nearly exhausted, and all that the Russians have given as assistance is twenty Napoleons. Having, fortunately, still a good balance in my hands from the Turkish Compassionate Fund, I placed 300 Turkish lira at the disposal of the two Commissions, viz., the Evacuation Commission, and the local one for the refugees, to be applied to the assistance of the destitute.

The authorities appeared immensely relieved, as they absolutely did not know what to do for them. Had I not been able to afford this assistance many must have died on the road. On my return from Bucharest in a couple of days I shall go back to Shumla, and do what more lays in my power. I hope to be able to avoid a catastrophe which otherwise must have been inevitable.

Rustchuk is in a state of great bustle and activity. The Russians are daily bringing here ammunition of war, provisions, &c., in great quantities up the Danube, chiefly in large lighters. They are also pushing forward large supplies towards Rasgrad, and which are evidently intended for Shumla, where they appear to be pressing the Turks in an extraordinary way, so much so that the latter actually believe that they are expecting to be soon engaged in hostilities.

One fort, Yildig Tabia, is already occupied by three battalions of Russian infantry, two batteries of field-pieces, and six siege guns and two squadrons of cavalry. In the town, when I left on Saturday morning, there were about 200 officers and men. The Turks appear to be yielding what their instructions authorize them to do.

I told the Turks that as I took great interest in the refugees, I thought that if their repatriation is left to the Russians and Bulgars, many will suffer immensely.

The Russians are very actively enrolling Bulgar troops, and it is said here that they intend enrolling 50,000. Many of the Bulgars do not like this, and the Russians are preventing them from going over into Roumania to evade this service.

At Shumla I was informed that the Turkish soldiers are deserting in large numbers, chiefly those from Rasgrat and other districts in Bulgaria. Whilst I was there eighty-four had deserted. The same thing is going on, I hear, at Varna.

There are very few English here. Most of them are still at Varna, and on the line.

I shall go over to Bucharest this evening to see Mr. White, who said he wished to communicate personally with me as to matters here connected with Roumania, and I

hope to return to-morrow evening, to enable me to return to Shumla as early as possible, and from thence I will write again.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 64. Consular.)
My Lord *Therapia, July 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of Dr. Dickson's weekly report upon the public health of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the public health, more especially that of the refugees, is rapidly improving. Typhus has ceased, no fresh cases of it having shown themselves during the past week, and the mortality, moreover, amongst the refugees, has diminished very much. It is at least 50 per cent. less than what it was.

Dr. Stokoulis observes that the Refugee Committee is now bestirring itself with a view to the departure of the refugees from the capital; but that no organized plan seems yet to have been formed in order to forward this object. Dr. Mordtmann, on the other hand, declared to the Board of Health yesterday that the refugees in Stamboul having heard of the acquisition of the Island of Cyprus by England, are clamouring to be sent there. A greater reproof could not have been uttered against Russia's humane and evangelical invasion of Turkey than this simple expression bursting from the lives of thousands of emaciated starving wretches driven away from their homes by the late war.

Dr. Gongtilio has telegraphed to the Board of Health, on the 16th instant, that the outbreak at Tchenquelkioy, near Alexandretta, is one of malaria fever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 49.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 24. Consular.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, July 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that troops and warlike munitions are still being forwarded at intervals to the Turkish frontiers in Asia Minor (Armenia), and that recruiting of native levies is still going on.

Concerts and fêtes are still being held and organized for the purpose of collecting funds wherewith to purchase and equip cruisers in America and elsewhere.

I hear that at Poti, and along the Mingrelian coast line, fortifications are being constructed, and immense quantities of provisions imported.

It is apparently apprehended that the Turks and Lazes will refuse to submit to the occupation of Batoum by the Russians, that the place will, in consequence, have to be attacked, and that this circumstance will bring on a fresh war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 50.

Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 25. Consular.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that nothing has, as yet, been officially published here with regard to the proceedings of the Congress, although more than ten days have elapsed since they were concluded. This has caused considerable uneasiness among the public.

Reports are constantly prevalent that an army of 60,000 men are assembling, partly in Russian Turkistan, partly on the Caspian, to be directed on Merv, with a view to menacing the north-west frontier of India, and the press in general vigorously supports the project of attacking the British Empire by that route.

Offensive and defensive preparations are being carried on in the Caucasus, as if an immediate war was contemplated; many well-informed military men look upon it as a certain consequence of the movements of troops and other arrangements that are being made.

It is probable that the Russian Government apprehends some *émeute* or *contretemps* to happen in taking possession of Batoum, but considerable discontent exists among the official and Governmental classes on account of the Anglo-Turkish alliance lately concluded, and with the terms on which Batoum has been ceded to the Russian Empire, and a disposition to regard the proceedings of the Congress as a farce which should be repudiated seems to be gaining ground.

I do not think it probable, however, that this Government should seriously contemplate an expedition towards India and Afghanistan while the Caucasus is in its present inflammable and disorderly state.

The notion of another war is hateful to the mass of the population. The lower classes are already in considerable misery through the rise in price of provisions and necessaries caused by the late campaign; and I have heard that the soldiers openly exclaim against hostilities being resumed.

It is certain that the greatest abuses and rascalities prevail in the levying of recruits and raising of local corps. In many instances, individuals who have bribed the local authorities, more than once to escape being conscripted, have been compelled to serve after all; in others, those who could bribe have been exempted *en masse*, while others, not liable to conscription, only sons of widowed parents, &c., have been seized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 51.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 418.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the French iron-clads "Gauloise," "Couronne," and "Guyenne" arrived at the Piræus yesterday morning from Smyrna, and that the French ship "Sané" is lying in Phalerum Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 52.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 420.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day communicated to an authorized source the suggestion which was contained in Sir Austen Layard's telegram to your Lordship of the 21st instant, on the subject of the cession of the Island of Crete to

Greece, instead of a rectification of frontier in Thessaly and Epirus. Orders will be taken upon the subject.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 53.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 421. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 24, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant, repeating to me a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, dated the 21st instant, reporting the decision of the Council against a rectification of the Greek frontiers, reached this yesterday. I communicated this morning to an authorized source a Memorandum, copy of which is herewith inclosed, containing the substance of that portion of Sir Austen Layard's telegram which states that a rectification of the Greek frontiers had been decided against, that the Turkish military authorities are of opinion that the frontier line suggested at the Congress is not defensible, and is of a nature to conduce to constant misunderstandings and to eventual complications with Greece, and which also puts forward the idea of a compromise being effected by the cession to Greece of Crete, instead of a portion of Thessaly and Epirus.

In making this communication, I expressed the hope that the Greek Government would have patience, and that they would do nothing to precipitate matters, and the authorized source replied that he was unceasingly giving this advice to everybody; Ministers included, and in reply to a question of mine as to the position of the Greek troops, and as to whether any movement of forces had taken place which might have given umbrage to the Porte, he said that not a battalion had been moved, and that the troops were stationed, as I have already reported, chiefly at Chalcis and Agrynion.

With regard to the despatch of Photiadès Bey, the Turkish Minister at Athens, as mentioned in Sir Austen Layard's telegram to your Lordship, in which he expresses the opinion that the Greek Government does not wish to come to a friendly understanding with the Porte, I have no reason to think that this is the case. On the contrary, I believe the Greek Government are anxious to arrive at a pacific solution of this question, and to be upon good terms with Turkey. But I have little hesitation in saying that if Turkey refuses all territorial concessions to Greece, concessions which she has been led to expect by the Congress at Berlin, the situation will be the same here as it would have been had the Congress ignored the Greek question, and that it is possible that in the event of Turkey refusing to listen to the recommendations of the Congress, and of the Great Powers not succeeding in prevailing upon her to listen to their advice, circumstances may force the Greek Government to embark in an adventurous policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Memorandum of Substance of part of Lord Salisbury's Telegram of the 22nd instant, given to an "authorized source" on the 24th July, 1878.

AT a Council held on the 20th instant a rectification of the Greek frontiers was decided against. The military authorities of Turkey are of opinion that the line suggested at the Congress affords no defensible frontier, that it is of a nature to lead to constant misunderstandings and to eventual complications with Greece.

As the Porte seems resolutely determined to resist an extension of the Greek line of frontiers, would Greece accept Crete instead?

Sir Austen Layard is not certain that Ottoman Government would agree to this arrangement, although he is inclined to believe that they would.

No. 54.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 424. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have learnt from an authorized source that my communication of Sir Austen Layard's suggestion caused great surprise, as it contains no certain basis with regard to the Island of Crete; and, as there is a strong conviction that the best basis, which Greece must not abandon, is the resolution of the Representatives of the Great Powers in Congress at Berlin; and there is a firm determination patiently to await a definitive solution.

I have informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 55.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 425. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 421 and 424, Confidential, of the 24th instant and of yesterday's date respectively, I have the honour to state that on learning from an authorized source the surprise which Sir Austen Layard's suggestion with regard to Crete had created, I explained that his Excellency had made it as a possible compromise, owing to the apparent determination of the Porte to resist all concessions of territory in Thessaly and Epirus, and which determination might bring about war between Turkey and Greece.

I have the honour to inclose copy of the communication which was made to me in French yesterday, and upon which I formed my telegram of yesterday's date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Memorandum of Answer given by an authorized source to Communication made by Mr. Wyndham on 24th July respecting Crete.

D'APRÈS la source autorisée, la dépêche du 21 courant contenant une suggestion de Mr. Layard a été lue avec grande surprise, puisqu'elle ne contient meme base fixe relativement à la Candie, et que l'on est persuadé que la meilleure base, qui ne doit être quittée par la Grèce, est celle des résolutions du Congrès, et qu'on est résolu d'attendre la solution définitive avec patience.

Athens, 25 *Juillet*, 1878.

No. 56.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 427.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been requested by the Cretan Committee at Athens to inform your Lordship that they approve of the request which the National Assembly of Crete has lately addressed to Mr. Sandwith, and that they entertain the hope that the mediation asked for may be accepted by Her Majesty's Government, and that an autonomous form of government in accordance with the wishes of the Cretans may be obtained.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 57.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 428. Confidential.)

Athens, July 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I CALLED yesterday upon Photiadés Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, and in the course of conversation I asked him what, in his opinion, was the state of public feeling at present in this country with regard to the policy to be pursued by Greece towards Turkey. He said that within the last ten days a complete change had taken place ("un revirement complet a eu lieu"); that at one time there was a party who maintained that immediate possession should be taken of the territory which the Congress had invited the Porte to cede to Greece, and that if a war could be brought about with Turkey, Greece would probably obtain in the end a larger amount of territory than that destined for her by the Treaty of Berlin. Now, he said, the most perfect calm prevailed, and the Government and the people were awaiting with patience the result of the negotiations for the rectification of the frontiers.

Nothing from the first has led me to think that the King or his Government had any other intention than of patiently awaiting the result of these negotiations, and the Government have, I have reason to believe, every wish when the pending frontier question is settled, and which they are anxious should be settled as soon as possible, to live on good terms with Turkey. It is hoped that the Mahommedans will not emigrate from the parts of Thessaly and Epirus to be ceded to Greece; and I have been informed by an authorized source that there is every intention to leave them in undisturbed possession of their property. An opinion has been moreover expressed to me that everything should be done to induce Mahommedans to take a part in the Government of the State, and that with that object endeavours should be made to obtain the return of some members of the Mussulman faith to the Chamber of Deputies. I mentioned this to Photiadés Bey yesterday, and he said that was the opinion of all reasonable men in Athens.

There is, I am told, a small party here who hold extravagant and violent ideas as to the policy which the Government should pursue; whose opinions are represented by a paper called the "Nea Idea;" but the opinions of this party are, I believe, without weight.

If the Porte deals with Greece in a spirit of liberality, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Congress, there will be all the more probability of Greece and Turkey being upon good terms, and of Greeks and Mahommedans uniting together to counteract the influence of the Slavs. But if, on the contrary, the Greeks are disappointed in what they have been led to expect from the Congress, the state of relations between Turkey and Greece may be of a very different nature.

I inclose herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes," which confirms the views I have taken as to the intentions of the Greeks to await the result of the negotiations between Turkey and Greece with patience. There has been a certain amount of incredulity amongst the public as to Greece obtaining any addition of territory, which may have given rise to expressions of a violent and extravagant nature, but now that the official text of the Protocol and of the Article of the Treaty of Berlin referring to Greece are fully known, that feeling has been greatly diminished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of July 25, 1878.

CONTRAIREMENT à tous les bruits répandus en Europe, le Gouvernement Hellénique n'a pris aucune mesure militaire extraordinaire en vue des difficultés qui pourraient surgir de l'application de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin.

La Grèce a une confiance absolue dans l'efficacité des décisions de l'Europe; elle n'admet donc point la possibilité que la Porte ait conçu la pensée de se soustraire aux engagements qu'elle lui a imposés.

La Grèce attendra donc avec ce calme qui ne lui a pas fait défaut depuis le commencement de la crise Orientale la signification du Traité de Berlin et du Protocole

de la treizième séance du Congrès, avant de faire aucune démarche pour la rectification des frontières dans les limites arrêtées par le Congrès.

No. 58.

Mr. Wyndham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 429 Confidential.)

Athens, July 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Photiadés Bey, the Turkish Minister here, informed me yesterday that he believed the Greek Government had received assurances from the French and Italian Governments that they would defend the Greek coasts with their fleets in the event of serious complications arising between Greece and Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 59.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 109.)

Belgrade, July 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a further petition which I have received by telegram from the principal inhabitants of twenty communes in the district of Tra, praying Her Majesty the Queen to listen to their wish for annexation to Servia, and graciously to refer their petition to the Committees of Delimitation.

The same petition has been addressed to the other Consulates here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Petition.

(Translation.)

To Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Ireland, Empress of India, through the English General Consulate at Belgrade.

IF the newspapers speak true as to the acts of the Powers in the Congress, these were pleased to incorporate ten of our villages with Bulgaria. But our national aspirations and customs, together with our national character, testify as to our being genuine Old Servians. The position of our territory, and the division of our country under Turkish rule, as well as our personal interests, unite us indivisibly with Servia. At the time we were under the Pashalik of Nish, our work and profit came from Servia, from which we also derived our resources, both for our personal maintenance and for the payment of the Governmental dues.

All this binds us to Servia, and neither living nor dead can we belong to Bulgaria.

If there should be any doubt relating to this our present declaration, we ask for a gracious decision that the Frontier Commission should listen to the declaration of the people. In the contrary case, we would be obliged, and we all are ready, to remove into Servia proper.

To obtain this favour from the Powers, we now address ourselves to the Signatories of the Congress, and, with the greatest submission, we sign ourselves, in the name of the people of the Nahie of Tra, most humbly.

Tra, July $\frac{13}{25}$, 1878.

(The signatures follow.)

No. 60.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 448.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 372 of the 24th instant, inclosing a letter from Sir Lintorn Simmons, of the 19th instant, on the subject of the omission of the word "près" in the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

The General's recollections on the subject entirely coincide with my own, and the text of the amended Article he incloses is identical with the text I took down myself at your Lordship's dictation immediately after it had been drawn up and agreed to at the last sitting but one of the Congress, on Friday, the 12th instant. A copy of it is herewith inclosed.

M. de Radowitz's return to Berlin from Kissengen has enabled me to carry out your Lordship's instruction No. 365A of the 16th instant, and at his own request I have written him a letter, of which copy is likewise inclosed, on the subject of the missing word.

Prince Hohenlohe is now at Paris, but, if appealed to, I have no doubt that, as President of the Délimitation and "Rédaction" Commission, His Highness' recollections will equally confirm the fact of the Congress having adopted the word "près," which has been omitted in the printed text of the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty.

Comte de Moüy, on whom I called to-day, recollects the circumstances well, and tells me he remembers perfectly your Lordship consulting him on the phrase "D'un point à l'ouest *près* du village de Karaougan," the adoption of which by Congress he declares to be "incontestable."

Comte de Moüy is still in possession of the notes taken at the time for the use of M. Desprez, as reporter of the "Rédaction" Commission, in which he tells me the word "près," left out in the print, holds the same place as in the notes taken by Sir Lintorn Simmons and by myself on the 12th instant.

I will send your Lordship M. de Radowitz's reply as soon as it reaches me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Text of Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, as amended.

ELLE suit cette rivière jusqu'à Bordouz, puis se dirige vers le sud, en laissant Bordouz et Jersikioy à la Russie. D'un point à l'ouest près du village de Karaougan la frontière se dirige sur Medjingert, de là en ligne directe vers le sommet de la Montagne Kassadogh et longe la ligne du partage, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Lord Odo Russell to M. de Radowitz.

M. le Ministre, *Berlin, July 29, 1878.*

AFTER your departure for Kissingen I received a message from the Marquis of Salisbury, requesting me to beg of you to let his Lordship have the original manuscript text of Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin (described as Article LIX in the 19th Protocol), as agreed to on Friday, 12th instant, during the suspension of the sitting of Congress between Count Schouvaloff, Mehemet Ali Pasha, and the Marquis of Salisbury. In your absence I applied to M. de Bülow, and his Excellency informed me that the original manuscript of Article LVIII was not in your Archives, M. Desprez having dictated the Article in question to M. de Jasmund. Having since caused an application to be made to M. Desprez, his Excellency has replied that the paper is not in his possession.

The reason for which we desired to obtain the original manuscript was for the purpose of comparing it with the print.

The second sentence of the text of the third paragraph of Article LVIII, agreed

upon during the suspended sitting by the Plenipotentiaries of Russia, Turkey, and England, on Friday, and afterwards accepted by the Congress, ran as follows:—

"D'un point à l'ouest près du village du Karaougan," &c.

The printed text of the Treaty presented to the Plenipotentiaries for signature on the following day, is as follows:—

"D'un point à l'ouest du village de Karaougan,"&c.

The word "près" has been omitted.

The omitted word "près" occurs in the notes taken by Sir Lintorn Simmons and by myself in the Congress Hall when the text was drawn up and agreed to. It occurs also in the notes taken at the time for the use of M. Desprez as reporter of the "Rédaction Commission," which are still in the Comte de Moüy's possession.

The text was agreed to by the Congress, and then communicated to His Highness Prince Hohenlohe as President, and to M. Despraz as reporter of the "Rédaction Commission," at the close of the sitting, between 5 and 6 o'clock, P.M.

Their Excellencies must have communicated it soon after to the Secretary of the Commission, M. de Jasmund, whose draft manuscript must have been sent the same evening to the printing-office.

I should therefore feel extremely obliged to you if you would have the goodness to ascertain from the printing-office for Her Majesty's Government how the omission of the missing word "près" can have occurred.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 521.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, translation of the Proclamation addressed by the Imperial Government to the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina, clearly stating that it has been called upon to occupy these territories merely with a view to the better preservation of order, and to put an end to the civil war that has hitherto proved so ruinous to the provinces, and also a source of constant disturbance to the bordering States.

It may be observed that this Proclamation, which bears no signature, would bear the interpretation of the occupation having been concerted with the Turkish Government; but the allusion to the decision of the Sultan to entrust the province to the protection of the Emperor has been considered warranted by the acquiescence expressed by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries at Berlin in the decision of the Congress.

Care has been taken to produce the impression that the occupation is not to be regarded as an act hostile to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Proclamation.

Habitants de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine!

LES troupes de l'Empereur d'Autriche et Roi de Hongrie sont sur le point de franchir les frontières de votre pays.

Elles ne viennent pas en ennemies, pour s'emparer de force de votre territoire.

Elles viennent en amies, pour mettre un terme aux maux qui, depuis une série d'années troublent non-seulement la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, mais aussi les pays limitrophes.

L'Empereur et Roi a appris avec douleur que la guerre civile désole ce beau pays; que les habitants d'une même province luttent entre eux les armes à la main; que le commerce et le travail sont suspendus; qu'on enlève vos troupeaux; que vos champs restent sans culture; et que la misère a envahi la ville et la campagne.

De grands et cruels événements ont privé votre Gouvernement de la faculté de

rétablir parmi vous d'une manière durable le calme et l'union sur lesquels repose le bien-être des peuples.

L'Empereur et Roi ne pouvait pas rester plus longtemps témoin impassible de la violence et de la discorde qui régnaient dans le voisinage de ses provinces, non plus que de la disette et de la misère qui frappaient à la porte de ses Etats.

Il a appelé l'attention des Etats Européens sur votre situation, et il a été décidé unanimement dans le conseil des peuples qui l'Autriche-Hongrie vous rendrait le calme et la prospérité dont vous êtes privés depuis si longtemps.

Sa Majesté le Sultan, animé du désir de pouvoir à votre bien-être, s'est décidé à vous confier à la protection de son puissant ami, l'Empereur et Roi.

Les troupes Impériales et Royales vont donc entrer parmi vous. Elles ne vous portent pas la guerre; elles viennent, au contraire, vous rendre la paix.

Nos armes seront pour chacun de vous un appui, et pour personne un instrument d'oppression.

L'Empereur et Roi a ordonné que tous les enfants de ce pays jouissent des mêmes droits devant la loi; que tous reçoivent protection pour leur vie, leur croyance, et leurs biens.

Vos lois et vos institutions ne seront point modifiées arbitrairement; vos mœurs et vos coutumes seront respectées. Aucun changement violent ne sera introduit sans qu'on ait au préalable réfléchi mûrement à vos besoins.

Les anciennes lois resteront en vigueur aussi longtemps qu'on n'en aura pas créé de nouvelles. On attend de la part de toutes les autorités, tant civiles que religieuses, qu'elles maintiennent l'ordre et secondent le Gouvernement.

Les revenues de ce pays seront exclusivement employés a subvenir aux besoins du pays lui-même.

Les impôts arriérés des dernières années ne seront pas recouvrés.

Les troupes de l'Empereur et Roi n'opprimeront point le pays, et ne lui seront point à charge. Elles paieront argent comptant tout ce qu'elles demanderont aux habitants.

L'Empereur et Roi est instruit de vos plaintes et désire votre bien-être.

Des peuples nombreux vivent unis sous son sceptre puissant, et chacun d'eux parle sa langue. Il règne sur les fidèles de religions diverses, et chacun professe librement sa croyance.

Habitants de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine!

Rangez-vous avec confiance sous la protection du glorieux étandard de l'Autriche-Hongrie.

Recevez nos soldats en amis; obéissez aux autorités; reprénez vos travaux, et vous obtiendrez protection pour le fruit de votre labour.

No. 62.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 522.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 29, 1878.*

GENERAL PHILIPPOVICS, to whom the command of the army of occupation has been entrusted, has issued the accompanying Proclamation to his troops, declaring that His Imperial and Royal Majesty the Emperor of Austria, unwilling that the Austrian States bordering on the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be so continually subject to disturbances, has, with the full consent of the European Powers, and with also that of the Porte, determined to occupy them with Austrian troops for the better preservation of order and tranquility; and that so long as the inhabitants are willing to receive them peacefully they will be fully protected; but that measures will be taken to overcome any resistance on their part.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Proclamation.

Soldats!

LA guerre civile dans sa forme la plus effrayante, une guerre de religion et de races faite avec fanatisme à nos frontières, a contraint une centaine de mille de réfugiés de chercher, fuyant de cruelles persécutions, aide et protection sur le sol Austro-Hongrois.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur, le Chef Suprême de notre armée, ne voulant pas exposer le propre territoire de la Monarchie à devenir le théâtre d'inspirations étrangères et anarchiques, ni tolérer plus longtemps dans les pays voisins des troubles menaçant notre repos et notre sécurité, a résolu, d'accord avec toutes les Puissances de l'Europe et avec le consentement de la Porte, de mettre fin une fois pour toutes, par l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, à ce funeste état de choses.

Fidèles aux principes de la loyauté, qui de tout temps ont marqué notre politique, ce n'est pas cette fois non plus un désir de conquête, mais bien le soin indispensable de notre propre bien-être qui nous oblige à franchir les frontières de l'Empire.

Soldats! Votre tâche est clairement tracée.

Dans une Proclamation qui vous est communiquée en même temps que celle-ci, nous nous engageons solennellement vis-à-vis des habitants de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, à condition qu'ils se soumettent volontairement aux mesures que j'aurai à prendre, de les traiter en amis sincères, de vouloir protéger les droits de chaque nationalité et de chaque religion, de même que les mœurs et les coutumes existantes, la propriété et le droit domestique.

Votre obéissance, toujours empressée, aux ordres du Chef Suprême de notre armée, votre discipline exemplaire me donnent la garantie certaine que cette promesse faite en votre nom sera tenue.

Dans l'exécution de la mission qui m'a été confiée je ne souffrirai aucune objection, et je saurai dompter toute résistance de quelque côté qu'elle vienne.

Soldats! votre tâche noble et sublime dans ses tendances offre de grandes difficultés.

Dans les pays où vous allez entrer les conditions sont telles que vous devez vous attendre à des marches pénibles et à des fatigues de tout genre.

Mais c'est avec une entière confiance que je compte sur votre force de volonté et sur votre persévérance; pour vous nul obstacle n'est si grand que vous ne puissiez le surmonter.

Je vous le répète, Soldats! ce n'est pas à une marche triomphante que je vous conduis, mais à un travail dur et pénible, accompli au service de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

Puissent ces mots, dont on a si souvent abusé, retrouver par vous une plus grande autorité, une nouvelle splendeur—leur véritable application.

(Signé) PHILIPPOVICS, *Feldzeugmeistre, m.p.*

Brod, le 27 Juillet, 1878.

No. 63.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 40. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, July 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Mr. Corbett touched here yesterday on his way to Syra and Athens, and he was welcomed on his arrival in port by the principal members of the British community.

He landed for a couple of hours, and embarked again at 6 o'cock P.M., when the steamer left for Syra, of which I informed Mr. Wyndham by telegram, that he might know when to expect his Excellency.

2. The Corfiotes are at present very much exercised over the disappointed hopes of the nation as regards an enlargement of territory, and the newspapers are filled with the coursest abuse of England and all that is English.

3. Commander Fitzgerald contemplates a short cruize as far as Dulcigno, in which purpose I have encouraged him, as he may be able to ascertain on what terms the Montenegrins and Turks stand at present, and also to communicate with

the Consulate at Scutari in case there should be any interruption of postal communications.

4. For some days back we have a couple of Albanian Boys in Corfu, deep in consultation with the Italian Consul, respecting the best method of obtaining the extension of an Italian Protectorate to Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 64.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 712.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1878.*

DESPATCH from Consul Reade dated 30th ultimo, describes shameful and revolting conduct of Russians and Bulgarians towards Mussulman refugees, who, on assurance of Russian authorities, were returning to their homes on evacuation of Shumla. Panic in consequence prevails among large numbers of refugees remaining in districts of Shumla and Varna, and who will be given over to Russians and Bulgarians. Can nothing be done for the protection of these poor people? The Sultan spoke to me on the subject when I last saw him, appealing to the humanity of Europe.

No. 65.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 713.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Sandwith:—

England will use her good offices to procure satisfactory arrangement for the future Government of Crete. I have hopes that the terms proposed in your telegram of the 30th ultimo will be taken into favourable consideration. I think you may give Cretan Chiefs to understand this, but without committing the Porte. Try (?) every effort to prevent recommencement of hostilities and further effusion of blood.

No. 66.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 289.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 3, 1878.*

RATIFICATIONS of Treaty of Berlin were exchanged between the six Powers this afternoon at 2·30 P.M. Turkish ratification will be exchanged within a fortnight.

No. 67.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, August 3, 1878.*

I HAVE received following from Captain Napier, dated the 31st July:—

"I am informed credibly of transmission of positive orders to Deregez to collect supplies for Russian force and co-operate by opposing any attempt of tribe to leave the Atrek.

Sent to Viceroy.

No. 68.

[Nil.]

No. 69.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, August 3, 1878.*

TURKISH Minister has informed me that French Ambassador at Constantinople who was here yesterday on his way home, said that he had told the Sultan that the presence of the French squadron here was intended as a demonstration against possible attack of Turkey on Greece. His Highness inquired whether in that case France would declare war on Turkey. Ambassador answered they had no such intention, but would prevent any Turkish attack on Greek coast.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 70.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 714.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 4, 1878.*

PORTE has received information that Governor and Mufti of Mostar have been murdered, and that there is the greatest excitement among the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who are preparing to resist Austrian occupation, and that Servians and Montenegrins are said to be ready to aid them. His Majesty expressed to me his

intention of appealing to the Queen to use her good offices to induce Emperor of Austria to stop advance of his troops until measures can be taken to calm agitation in those provinces by an arrangement between Austria and Turkey, and thereby to prevent useless bloodshed.

No. 71.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 715.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 4, 1878.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Turkish Ambassador at Berlin, to state to Plenipotentiaries that Sultan fully accepts and ratifies the Treaty, but that it is physically impossible to exchange ratifications within the time fixed. They will be sent as soon as possible.

No. 72.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 4, 1878.*

PRINCE MILAN and his Government are much alarmed by the insurrectionary movements at Prisrend. They fear Turkish support and apprehend an attack on Servia, which they would have to resist.

M. Ristics requests the good offices of Her Majesty's Government lest insurrection in Bosna-Seraï increases the danger.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 4, 1878.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Acting-Consul Freeman, dated yesterday:—

"I think Austrians will meet with greater difficulty than they anticipate; not less than 5,000 men have marched from district of Serajevo. Ringleaders yesterday at Mostar. Mutessarif and other Turkish officers murdered. Commander of troops escaped with three battalions."

No. 74.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 52. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 26, 1878.*

I HAVE very little of importance to communicate to your Lordship this week. The people here continue their preparations for a resistance to the Austrian troops, and a national defence fund is being raised, which yesterday had reached the sum of 700,000 kaïmé. I think, however, that the warlike ardour of the population is beginning to cool, and there is no talk of marching to the frontier.

From Mostar I am informed that the Mussulmans seem quite resigned to the Austrian occupation and not to contemplate resistance, and that perfect tranquillity reigns. My informant states that the authorities have received secret orders to shoot any disturber of the peace, whereas here the Commander of the troops declares that he has been ordered on no account, in the event of disturbances, to fire on the people.

It appears that the Mussulman refugees from Nicksich have asked permission of the Prince of Montenegro to return to their homes.

In the Herzegovina the army contractors refuse to any longer furnish supplies, and the troops are said to have food for only twenty days. Their rations have consequently been reduced. The Government employés, who have not been paid for some months, anxiously await the Austrians, hoping to be confirmed in their posts and to receive arrears of pay.

The Austrians have thrown their bridges across the Save at Brood and Gradisko, but the date of their entry into Bosnia still seems doubtful. It is very desirable that it should be hastened, and an end put to the present agitation and uncertainty, and to the state of chaos that prevails in the Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 75.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 27. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 27, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here, from Cattaro, of the Austro-Hungarian iron-clads "Habsburg" and "Keiser-Max."

Owing to the garrison being considered insufficient for the safety of the town and the neighbourhood the above-named ships-of-war will remain here for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 76.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 27, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report the departure from Ragusa of an Austro-Hungarian regiment 3,000 strong, besides 800 horses and mules.

The destination of the steamers that conveyed them was kept secret; but from what I can gather the troops must have been landed at Spalato.

With reference to the projected occupation of Herzegovina it was at first intended that a portion of the army should make Ragusa their point of departure, as troops and provisions to a very considerable amount were being concentated here; but the original plan appears now to have been abandoned, owing, probably, to the intelligence received that the Mussulman population at Trebinjé were arming themselves with the object of making a resistance should the Austrians attempt to cross the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 77.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 660.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I learn from Count Schouvaloff that the Emperor has signed the ratification of the Treaty of Berlin, and that it will be sent to Berlin to-morrow by Baron Friederichs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 78.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 673.)

St. Petersburgh, July 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation by Mr. Michell of an article giving the latest returns of sickness in those portions of the Russian army employed in European and Asiatic Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Newspaper Extract.

(Translation from the Russian.)

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—According to a telegram dated the 14th July, received by the "Golos" from San Stefano, the number of invalids in the three corps comprising the army in the field in European Turkey was as follows:—

In the South Balkan army.—In hospitals, 4,667 sick; in the detachments of troops, 8,941; in all, 13,608.

In the northern detachment.—In hospitals, 8,404; in lazarettes, 878; distributed in country districts, 1,101; in all, 10,384.

In the rear of the army.—In hospitals, 4,056; in lazarettes, 115; in the district, 585; in all, 5,050.

The total number of sick, therefore, in the active army at the present time amounts to 29,048 men. It is necessary to note that the number of sick in the northern detachment and in the rear of the army is excessive, owing to the number of invalids which have been dispatched home not having been deducted.

In the course of last week, from the 7th to the 14th July, 2,635 invalids were transported to Russia from the army south of the Balkans.

Cases of disease in the last-named detachment are diminishing weekly.

The character of the prevalent diseases does not cause any anxiety. No epidemic prevails in the active army. The number of spotted typhus cases does not exceed 30 per cent. of the total number of invalids. The death-rate is inconsiderable.

The "Golos" publishes the following statistics of the development of Typhus in the army of the Caucasus from the 1st November, 1877, to the 31st March, 1878. During that period the cases were:—

Intestinal typhus, 5,897; spotted typhus, 9,402; recurring typhus, 6,440; light external affections, 6,530; in all, 21,739. Died, from intestinal typhus, 2,184; spotted typhus, 3,302; recurring typhus, 1,855; light external affections, 974; in all, 8,405. It would appear that the number of typhus cases and the death-rate steadily increased up to March month, particularly in the Saganlug detachment, which was stationed at an elevation of 6,000 ft. to 8,000 ft., and always suffered from scarcity of fuel. The predominant disease was intermittent fever, and then came spotted typhus, recurring typhus, light external affections, diseases of the respiratory organs, and, lastly, intestinal typhus.

No. 79.

Mr Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 678.)

St. Petersburgh, July 31, 1878.

My Lord,

M. IBRAILAS, the Greek Minister at this Court, assures me that M. Delyanni, who is expected to arrive to-day, visits St. Petersburg merely with the view of thanking the Russian Government, in the same manner as he has already done those of Great Britain and France, for the interest shown by their Plenipotentiaries at the Congress in the affairs of Greece.

M. Delyanni will remain here only a couple of days, and will then proceed to discharge a similar duty at Vienna and at Rome.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 80.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 680.)

St. Petersburgh, August 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship:—

1. Translation by Mr. Michell of an article from the "Golos," acknowledging the great advantages which Russia will derive from the acquisition of Batoum.

2. Translation by Mr. Michell of another article from the "Golos," of a subsequent date, attacking the conduct of Austria, and pointing out the consequently unsatisfactory nature of the results obtained at Berlin.

3. Translation by Mr. Stephen of an article also in the "Golos," advising a closer understanding with Great Britain, in order that Russia may be able to devote all her resources to preparing for the inevitable conflict with Austria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Extract from the "Golos" of July 13/25, 1878.

(Translation from the Russian.)

IMPORTANCE OF RUSSIAN ACQUISITIONS IN ASIA MINOR.—The "Golos" of the 13/25th July publishes a leading article on the advantages which Russia will derive by her acquisition of territory in Asia. The paper says:—

"The Berlin Treaty, while curtailing the territory which Russia appropriated in Asia Minor in virtue of the San Stefano Treaty by restoring to Turkey the plains of Alashkert and the town of Bayazid, has, notwithstanding, sanctioned the annexation to our Trans-Caucasian possessions of the territory of Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum, which possess for Russia important advantages, both economic and strategical.

"The possession of Batoum, as we have repeatedly stated, possesses a special importance in this respect, that it averts the possibility of the Turks concentrating stores at that point for the purpose of creating disturbances in the Caucasian Mountains, and having at their command a central point from whence they could act against us by means of the hostility felt towards us by the Lazes and other tribes.

"In an economic respect, Russia's acquisitions in Asia Minor present still greater advantages. The former Pashalic of Kars represents the granary of the whole Armenian plateaux, from whence, even to the present time, considerable quantities of grain have been transported into Russian territory.

"But of special importance is the acquisition of Batoum. This port is the only convenient harbour along the whole eastern coast of the Black Sea. In accordance with the official text of the Berlin Treaty (see Clause 54), His Majesty the Emperor's intention of making this essentially a commercial port does not preclude the possibility, in case of necessity, of utilizing this port as a naval station for a portion of our future Black Sea fleet; Batoum, therefore, in a defensive sense, comprises for us a very defensive acquisition.

"Unfortunately, however, these very acquisitions assume quite another feature when reviewed from the new point of view created by the Anglo-Turkish Convention."

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

Extract from the "Golos."

THE political situation in which Russia is placed by the Berlin Congress is one which renders a war with Austria unavoidable, and a war with England more than probable.

If Russian diplomacy is founded on the true interests of the Russian people, it can now render its country a great service. If we weigh the advantages to be gained from a further practical development of the mutual interests of England and Russia, we arrive at the conclusion, from a Russian stand-point, that a mutual understanding

between England and Russia with regard to Asiatic affairs is not only possible but would be useful.

The good sense of Englishmen cannot fail to separate English interests from the chaos of the national religious struggle from which it is not in the power of Russia to recede.

To come to an understanding with England so as to simplify the impending war with Austria, is the next and the chief task of Russian diplomacy. Till this is arrived at, Russia will be obliged to collect all her forces for a new war in Europe with Austria, and for a struggle in Asia with Turkey and England, and thus Russia will be threatened on all sides and in all seas.

The Treaty of Berlin has brought Russia instead of peace a new war in the future, and a war far more arduous than that just ended.

No time should be lost in reorganisation of our military system.

Inclosure 3 in No. 80.

Extract from the "Golos" of July 16, 1878.

(Translation from the Russian.)

RESULTS OF THE CONGRESS.—The "Golos" of the 16th July summarizes the results arrived at by the Berlin Congress in the following manner:—

"The results of the labours of the Congress have certainly insured a peace, in the sense that they have averted the possibility, perhaps, of an immediate collision between Russia and England, but, at the same time, have really satisfied nobody, inasmuch as the aspirations and wishes of the parties interested were not only at variance but strictly opposed to each other. The agreement, therefore, arrived at by the Congress is nothing more than a compromise, and, in fact, could be nothing more; while experience shows that compromises always leave behind them disappointment for blighted hopes and the incompleteness of results attained. . . . .

"Prince Bismarck knows better than anybody that although peace is insured, the renewed agreement arrived at in Europe cannot be durable. It is well known to him that one of the dire results of the Berlin negotiations and the registered decisions is the complete extermination of everything that might have been utilized by him in securing the peace of Europe by means of a certain grouping of international interests. The alliance of the three Emperors no longer exists. Austro-Hungary openly ruptured the alliance by siding with England in the Bulgarian question. The Government of Austria at the present moment stands isolated among the seven Great Powers, after proving to each and all that the special interests of the Habsburg Empire cannot be fully coincident with the interests of any—not even excepting England, whom Count Andrassy at once ceased to support as soon as he had succeeded, with her assistance, in obtaining the consent of Europe to the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"In such a position of European affairs, it would be useless to seek for the elements of a durable and permanent European agreement. Such elements have not been created. Meantime the incomplete and far from satisfactory decision of the Eastern question necessitates the adoption of a whole series of measures to prevent the question once again resulting in an European war. New political alliances and agreements are essentially necessary, and it cannot be said that no materials exist to make their realization possible. The Anglo-Turkish alliance, which has aroused the dissatisfaction of almost all the continental Cabinets, and the course of action adopted by Austro-Hungary, have undoubtedly created a basis for a new grouping of Continental Powers, who have at last comprehended that by pursuing the old policy of mistrust and disguised enmity towards Russia, they have only afforded England the means of unceremoniously dealing, for her own ends, with the whole of Continental European interests."

No. 81.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 529.)
Vienna, August 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE inquired what will be the rank of the representatives accredited by the Emperor to the independent Courts of Bucharest and Belgrade.

His Majesty will send an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the former capital, but it has not yet been decided what rank shall be enjoyed by the Austro-Hungarian Representative at the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 82.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 530.)
Vienna, August 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Austro-Hungarian Government have been informed that it is the intention of Prince Charles, upon the occasion of the recognition of Roumania as an independent State, to assume a title of more pretension than that which he has hitherto enjoyed.

It is understood that he wishes to have the somewhat novel designation of Grand Prince with the prefix of Royal Highness, and I do not apprehend that the Austro-Hungarian Government will show any disposition to oppose his desire, though they might not have been so willing to accede to his assuming the title of King.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 83.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 5.)

Admiralty, August 2, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of 24th ultimo, inclosing copies of the correspondence on the subject of the musketry fire opened on two boats of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," by the Russian outposts, from the shore at the head of the Gulf of Xeros on the 14th ultimo, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a further letter which has been received from Vice-Admiral Hornby, with a copy of his letter to General Todleben, and that officer's reply, and of a report from Captain Fitzroy of his visit to the General at San Stefano for the purpose of delivering the letter and obtaining an explanation in regard to the firing on the "Swiftsure's" boats.

2. Lieutenant Rollestone's report of the circumstances under which he landed and was detained by the Russian outposts is also inclosed for Lord Salisbury's information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Alexandra," at Princes Islands, July 18, 1878.

FORWARDED for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, observing that my Flag Captain has had a satisfactory personal interview with General Todleben this morning, and his Excellency, who was unaware of the occurrences reported herein, expressed his great regret, and promised that a full investigation should be held.

2. I have furnished Her Majesty's Ambassador with a copy of Captain Salmon's report and my letter to General Todleben, and have acquainted him with the result of Captain Fitzroy's visit to San Stefano.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to General Todleben.

"*Alexandra*," *at Princes Islands, July* 17, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to inform your Excellency that on the 14th instant two officers in a skiff of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," unarmed, were made prisoners by the Russian soldiers on the north shore of the Gulf of Xeros. On the same day the steam-boat that was sent from Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," also unarmed, to look for them, after communicating verbally with the Russian troops through interpreters, was fired at and struck.

On the following day a steam-boat was again sent on shore from Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," and after having communicated with the Russian troops and remained some time at anchor at a short distance from the shore, was again fired at by them, although she was flying an English ensign and a white flag at the same time.

The two officers appear to have returned to their ship on the evening of the 15th, after having been hospitably received at Sharkoi by a Colonel in the Russian service, but no explanation of or apology for the extraordinary attacks made on them and on the boats has been tendered, and as my officers have experienced a difficulty in communicating with responsible officers who command Russian troops in the neighbourhood of the Gulf of Xeros I have to address myself to your Excellency.

I inclose, for your Excellency's perusal, a full report of the circumstances which I have received from the Captain of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," and shall feel obliged if you will furnish me with a reply at your earliest convenience, in order that I may forward the same for the information of my Government.

I have send this despatch by my Flag Captain, who will possibly be able to afford your Excellency information as to the localities or any other naval subject which may be of assistance to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 83.

General Todleben to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

San Stefano, le $\frac{1}{3}$ *Juillet*, 1878.

M. l'Amiral,

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre de votre Excellence du 17 courant, qui m'a été remise par M. R. O'B. Fitzroy, Commandant de "l'Alexandra," et par laquelle vous m'informez de l'incident qui s'est passé à Xeros, incident que je déplore tout en me félicitant de ce qu'il n'a pas eu de suites funestes.

Je n'ai pas encore reçu d'informations directes à ce sujet à cause de la longueur et de la difficulté des communications par terre. Ces informations ne manqueront pas de me parvenir incessamment néanmoins, et sans les attendre j'ai immédiatement expédié un Colonel d'Etat-Major sur la côte septentrionale du Golf de Xeros afin d'y procéder à une enquête sévère sur les lieux. L'extrême étendue de ces côtes nous met dans l'impossibilité d'avoir partout des postes d'officiers, en présence desquels un fait aussi regrettable n'aurait pu se produire. Dans tous les cas ce qui s'est passé à Xeros ne peut être que le résultat d'un malentendu fâcheux, car il est expressément défendu à nos avant-postes même de répondre aux coups de fusil qui pourraient partir des lignes Turques avant que les causes de l'alerte ne soient bien expliquées; à plus forte raison cela doit se rapporter aux armes d'une Puissance amie. Dès que j'aurai reçu les informations détaillées que j'attends, je m'empresserai de les communiquer à votre Excellence, ainsi que les mesures qui auront été prises afin d'empêcher le renouvellement de faits aussi regrettables.

En attendant, je prie M. l'Amiral d'agréer les expressions de nos sincères regrets au sujet de ce fâcheux incident, ainsi que les assurances de la considération la plus distinguée avec laquelle j'ai, &c.

(Signé) G. J. TODLEBEN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 83.

Captain Fitzroy to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

(Confidential.)
"*Alexandra*," *at Princes Islands, July* 18, 1878.

Sir,

IN obedience to your instructions I conveyed your despatch relative to the affair in the Gulf of Xeros to General Todleben, at San Stefano.

On first arriving I waited on the General in command of the garrison, with whom I proceeded to head-quarters, and after waiting twenty minutes while the mail was closing for St. Petersburgh, I was received most cordially by the Commander-in-chief, who requested Mr. Jenner, your interpreter, might translate into French to him verbally your despatch; no one else was present. The interview lasted quite half-an-hour. The General repeatedly expressed his extreme regret for what had occurred, saying it was "incomprehensible."

I pointed out on the chart the position marked "windmill," and explained the nature of the "skiff," "pinnace," and a few other terms, also the distinct meaning of an "unarmed boat."

The General said that, "owing to several English and Turkish officers having walked through the Russian lines without permission, and English boats being observed surveying the north coast of the Gulf of Xeros, he had given strict orders to warn people so entering the Russian lines off, or to take them to the Commandant to have permission granted them, and (in the case of the boats surveying) to warn them off, as that could not be permitted; that Circassians, Cossacks, and villagers could not be expected to, and did not know the British flag, and mistakes might be made" (again repeating his great regret at the "Swiftsure's" boats being fired upon). General Todleben also said, "My orders on this point are most strict, as any accidental musket going off might make others fire and create a general fusillade up and down the lines." Again he said, "Circassians, Cossacks, and villagers were ignorant and difficult to manage;" and then desired me to convey to you his apologies for the occurrence, his great regret at it; that he would immediately send a responsible officer down to Xeros to inquire into the circumstances of the case, and have the soldiers, Circassians, or villagers so implicated punished; and that he much regretted that the very first time he had had the honour of communicating with yourself, it should be on an unpleasant subject. He stated, "The result of my inquiries, and the punishment awarded, will be forwarded to Admiral Hornby."

I then retired, thanking the General for his courtesy, and expressing the respect and esteem his old friends in England felt for him, and the great honour I considered it to be the bearer of a message from you to so distinguished an officer.

One of the Aide-de-camps told me they were "sick of the business, tired of it, had no official intelligence of the Congress, and did not know what they were going to do; that they wanted one thing or the other, peace or war—we and the army did not care which, so long as they did something." Another, in answer to my questions, said they "had got rid of nearly all their invalids, the men were healthier, but that hot weather might soon make them ill again; that since General Todleben taking command all ladies had been sent to Odessa, but that now Congress was over they would come back."

The officers and men I saw were fine soldiers and well dressed. The town, streets, &c., dirty, and ill-kept; forage and other stores were being disembarked.

The tents behind the lighthouse have the Geneva Cross on them.

In the roadstead were the "Constantine" and four other steamers, apparently transports, all vessels of under 3,000 tons burden, I should think.

By all the Russian officers I was received with civility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT O'B. FITZROY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 83.

Lieutenant Robertson to Captain Salmon.

"*Swiftsure*," *Gulf of Xeros, July* 19, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with your orders, I have the honour to report that on the afternoon of the 14th instant I left the ship under sail in a private skiff belonging to the

officers, accompanied by Mr. Thomas, midshipman, my intention being to pass the afternoon sailing about the gulf.

Taking advantage of a beam wind, I stood over towards the north shore, and after coasting along for a short distance, I arrived opposite a small bay in which I had, on a previous occasion, landed for the purpose of gathering flowers.

Deeming that we were beyond the Russian outposts, and certainly with no intention of disobeying my orders against landing, even had I known of them, and wishing again to procure some flowers, I landed for this purpose.

This was at about half-past 2, and having hauled the boat up, I was about to leave the beach, accompanied by Mr. Thomas, when I observed on the bank over my head a Cossack hailing in an excited manner, and pointing a rifle towards me. He was immediately joined by some four or five companions, accompanied, apparently, by a corporal, and on our approach we were seized and searched, and the boat examined. We at once explained who we were, pointing to the ship, in which we were assisted by a Greek who now came up, and who spoke a little French. The soldiers then unloaded their rifles, and conducted us to the village of Kurajali. Here we remained for about half-an-hour outside a café, being provided with chairs, until the arrival of an interpreter, who explained to the corporal our position, who we were, and for what purpose we had landed.

We were then informed that when horses could be procured we should have to proceed to Kadikoi. After a delay of more than an hour (at about 4) we started on foot, accompanied by a Cossack and two guides, all mounted. We arrived at the outskirts of Kadikoi at sunset, after a walk of about ten miles. We were then halted under the charge of a second Cossack, who had joined the party at one of their outposts, while his companion rode on to report our arrival. After another delay of at least an hour, this man returned, bringing two horses, on which Mr. Thomas and myself were mounted and conducted to the village.

On arriving there we found several officers awaiting us, who received us with great cordiality, the Captain in command expressing his regret that we had been compelled to undertake the journey on foot, explaining that it was owing to the ignorance of the Cossacks. We were conducted at once by a number of officers to their mess-room, and as more than one possessed a certain knowledge of French, we had no difficulty in relating to them the events of the afternoon, but were much concerned on hearing that, as no officer of a rank superior to that of Captain was quartered at Kadikoi, it would be necessary to send us on to Sharkoi the following morning.

We represented to them the inconvenience it would cause on board ship if we did not return that night, but were politely informed that it would be contrary to their orders to permit us to depart, but that we could start early the following (Monday) morning, and would be able to get back to our ship that night. We consequently remained at Kadikoi, and were in every way kindly entertained.

On Monday morning, at about 8 o'clock, we proceeded on horseback, accompanied by two armed Cossacks, for Sharkoi, which, after a somewhat tedious journey, was reached at about noon, being at once conducted to the head-quarters in an hotel facing the sea. Here we were introduced to a Russian officer, who I ascertained held the rank of Colonel, and who, having offered us refreshments, intimated that he could not speak French himself, but that a dragoman would be in attendance immediately, and very shortly an officer, who said he held the rank of Captain, joined, and interpreted our story, on which the Colonel expressed himself gratified at the pleasure of entertaining us, and desired that we would make ourselves comfortable in his position for the time.

The interpreter then took down in writing the account that I had given him, which was at once forwarded to the General, who sent at once to inform us that a mistake had been made, and that we could return either by sea or on horseback, as we had come, also intimating his desire to see us before leaving. We at once repaired to the presence of the General, who, through the interpreter, politely expressed his regret at the inconvenience we had experienced, and his disapproval of the conduct of the conduct of the officers responsible for our detention. We then returned to the quarters we had left, and after dining with the Colonel and some of his officers, we, at about 4 or 5 o'clock, mounted our horses, and, escorted as before by Cossacks, started on our return journey, arriving at the Cossack camp outside Kadikoi at about 9, where we were positively assured by the officers that our boats had fired at their men. After some delay, caused by the excessive hospitality of the officers, we proceeded, finally reaching the village where we had been originally detained, and the beach adjoining, at about 1 A.M. (Tuesday). Here we found the skiff hauled right over the bank, clear

of the beach, and, having launched her with the assistance of the Cossacks, we proceeded on board, arriving at about 2 A.M. In conclusion, I beg to add that nothing could exceed the kindness and hospitality shown by the Russian officers wherever we met them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT SIDNEY ROBERTSON.

Forwarded for the information of Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, K.C.B., V.C.

(Signed) NOWELL SALMON, *Captain*.

"*Swiftsure*," *July* 19, 1878.

No. 84.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August 5.)

Constantinople, le 4 Août, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI déjà communiqué à votre Excellence la correspondance échangée avec Alexandre Pâcha au sujet de la question de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine. Par le prochain courrier, je vous enverrai la suite de cette correspondance. En attendant, je m'empresse de vous informer que toute la population de ces provinces s'est soulevée à la nouvelle de l'entrée des Autrichiens sur le territoire Ottoman. Les canons, les fusils et les munitions de guerre sont tombés au pouvoir des habitants. Une partie de nos troupes a fraternisé avec eux, et tous, Musulmans et Chrétiens, sont décidés à s'opposer énergiquement et par la force des armes à l'occupation étrangère. Les Albanais, de leur côté, s'organisent activement pour se joindre aux Bosniaques et repousser les troupes Autrichiennes. En présence de cette effervescence, les plus terribles calamités sont à redouter, et les efforts de nos autorités civiles et militaires ne parviennent pas à calmer les esprits. Le Gouverneur et le Mufti de Mostar ont été mis à mort. Il est évident aujourd'hui que la mesure d'occupation, loin de contribuer au rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans ces provinces, sera le signal de nouveaux malheurs pour nos populations. Je vous prie de signaler à la sérieuse attention de Lord Salisbury les faits et les considérations qui précèdent, ainsi que la gravité de la situation.

No. 85.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 181.) *Vienna, August 5*, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Jerningham's telegram of yesterday, the Austrian Government are informed by their Consul at Trisreud, that great preparations are being made by the Albanians to prevent cession of that place.

No. 86.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 182. (Confidential.) *Vienna, August 5*, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of the aspect of things in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, Count Andrassy proposes to call upon the Porte to answer categorically whether it regards the Austrian troops as friends or as enemies.

No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 183.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, August 5, 1878.

AN Austrian squadron of Hussars, which had been pushed forward as *éclaireurs*, has sustained a loss of seventy men at Fumlai, on the River Bosna; but there has hitherto been nothing to check the advance of the main body, which is expected to reach Bosna-Serai in about ten days. The troops on Herzegovina from Dalmatia met with some resistance between the frontier and Mostar, which place they are expected to reach to-day. The insurgents there have plundered the magazines and depôts of arms, and have expelled some and massacred others of the Turkish authorities, and Commander-in-chief has withdrawn to the neighbourhood of Austrian territory, into which he will pass with three battalions, which will not be disarmed, as the Austrian Government is quite satisfied with his proceedings.

No. 88.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 5, 1878.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 371 of the 27th ultimo, when Count Maffei told you that the question of the rectification of the frontier, so far as the Trentino is concerned, could not now be abandoned by Italy, did you understand him to imply that any communication or demand had been addressed by Italy to Austria?

No. 89.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 58. Political.)

Acre, July 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 71, and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the movement of Circassian refugees and other occurrences in certain districts of the Vilayet of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Acre, July 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting the transfer of a number of Circassian refugees from Tripoli to Acre, as well as an act of violence committed by these refugees upon the person of a Christian of Tripoli; also a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consular Agent Finzi, reporting the arrival at Acre of a large body of these refugees and the action of the authorities in consequence. Mr. Finzi further reports certain administrative abuses which I consider worthy of attention. The Yussef Aga el Mamlouk of Sour, whom Mr. Finzi mentions as the farmer of the tithes, is a man of notoriously bad reputation, but who, on account of his influence, is greatly feared by the authorities.

It is reported from Hamah that in consequence of orders emanating from the vilayet for the installation of 10,000 refugees in that district, the inhabitants, inspired by the Kaïmakam Mohamed Bey Yussef, have, in addition to other sacrifices already made in favour of these immigrants, presented them with 6,000 kilog. of wheat and 4,000 kilog. of barley to sow the land assigned to them for cultivation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général,

Tripoli, le 17 *Juillet*, 1878.

DANS mon rapport du 2 courant j'ai eu l'honneur de vous informer des différents actes de désordre auxquels donne lieu la situation précaire faite aux Tcherkesses dans notre ville. Depuis lors tous ceux qui étaient destinés à St. Jean-d'Acre ont pu partir au nombre d'environ 600. La marine est entièrement évacuée. Il nous en reste 700 ou 800 en ville.

Il y a une douzaine de jours vers 8 heures du soir ils ont pris un Chrétien boutiquier demeurant devant la porte de leur khan. Ils l'y ont entraîné et en ont fermé la porte. Puis ils l'ont garotté et frappé avec une extrême violence. Quelques témoins du dehors prévinrent la police qui accourut, et parvint à délivrer la victime. Celle-ci fut conduite au sérail dans un pitoyable état. On me l'amena plus tard dans la soirée; je constatai une très-violente contusion sur la pommette de la joue et d'autres sur la tête, au cou, et aux épaules. Néanmoins aucune ne me parut dangereuse, et en effet, après quelques jours de fièvre, l'homme est aujourd'hui en bonne voie de guérison. Quant aux causes de cette brutalité, il est difficile de s'en rendre un compte exact. L'homme assure qu'il comptait de l'argent dans sa boutique et que les Tcherkesses, attirés par le bruit, l'enlevèrent lui et l'argent. Ceux-ci prétendent qu'il buvait constamment de l'eau-de-vie sous leurs yeux et que, ce soir-là, dans un moment d'ivresse, il prit avec une de leurs femmes des libertés qui les exaspérèrent. Le Chrétien n'étant pas par lui-même un sujet irréprochable, on peut croire qu'il y a un peu de vrai et beaucoup d'exagération de part et d'autre. Quoiqu'il en soit, cette population oisive, décimée par les maladies et la misère, toujours armée, n'en est pas moins un danger pour la ville et un grave embarras pour l'autorité qui craint de sévir, et qui n'en aurait même pas le moyen dans un cas d'urgente nécessité.

Il est bien à souhaiter qu'on puisse trouver au plus tôt un emploi pour les malheureux qui eux-mêmes demandent instamment à sortir de cette position.

L'ancien Caïmacam d'Akkar est destitué; on m'assure qu'il va en arriver un nouveau de Constantinople. Il est profondément regrettable, pour la paix du pays, que Mohammed Bey El Mohammed n'ait pas été nommé.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 89.

Consular Agent Finzi to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général,

Acre, le 11 *Juillet*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous rapporter que le 8 du courant arriva ici le bateau Ottoman "Cassel Kerim" avec 182 Circassiens réfugiés; que le Gouvernement local leur empêcha le débarquement, renvoyant le dit bateau à Caïffa, où ont été débarqués les dits Circassiens pour être acheminés à Naplouse.

Le Mutasserif d'Acre se trouve vers le Ghor en compagnie du Tabour Agasi et Holo Pacha pour obliger les Bédouins de la tribu des Beni Sacker à se retirer et les empêcher d'imposer des contributions sur les villages que prétendent les dits Bédouins avoir le droit d'exiger.

L'administration de la justice ici empire toujours à cause de la vénalité et corruption des employés supérieurs, excepté le Mutasserif.

Les dîmes de ces contrées ont été délivrées à un certain Joseph Agha el Mouloulk de Sour, refusant le Gouvernement les enchérisseurs qui se présentent pour favoriser le dit Joseph Agha avec lequel étaient d'accord les autorités principales de Damas.

Le droit de Ghafar, passage au-delà de Jourdain, où passent tous les chameaux chargés de blé provenant du Hauran, a été affermé contre paiement en espèces sous condition d'exiger en pareille manière les droits des passants; mais les afferméurs exigent le paiement en argent effectif. Des réclamations ont été faites que le Tribunal d'Acre a déclarées justes, mais sans tenir compte d'une telle décision, à cause que les employés principaux du dit Tribunal sont associés avec les afferméurs.

Dans cet instant vient d'arriver le bateau Autrichien-Hongrois, "Tirnavo," ayant à bord 1,200 réfugiés Circassiens. Le Gouvernement local lui refusa le débarque-

ment, expédiant un télégramme à son Excellence le Vali à Damas pour attendre ses ordres.

En attendant, le Capitaine du Baleau va protester.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. D'A. FINZI.

No. 90.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 60. Political.)
Aleih, July 22, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in continuation of my former Reports relative to the general impression produced in Syria by the occupation of Cyprus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleih, July 22, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, transmitting a copy of my despatch No. 57 to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, reporting on the effect produced in Syria by the occupation of Cyprus, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I continue to receive intelligence from almost all parts of Syria that the same feeling of satisfaction prevails as at Beyrout.

From one of the towns on the coast, of the fanaticism of whose Mussulman inhabitants I have on several occasions had to complain, I have received, relative to the effect produced by our taking possession of Cyprus, the following:—

"Tout notre pays en est encore ému, chacun bien entendu à son point de vue. Les Musulmans sont consternés, mais à la réflexion je crois que le plus grand nombre envie le sort de Chypre; plus de soldats, des impôts modérés et une vraie Administration. Je suis sur qu'au fond beaucoup font des vœux pour que la Syrie ait le sort de Chypre.

"Quant aux Chrétiens, ils sont dans une jubilation impossible à décrire. Eux aussi font des vœux ardents pour qu'une main étrangère vienne aussi s'étendre sur le pays."

This, I believe, as far as my information goes, expresses the general feeling produced throughout the country.

It is a notable fact that, on the first rumour of an occupation, a number of native capitalists of Beyrout went, or sent agents, to Larnaca, to purchase landed property, some of them, I am told, acting under telegraphic advice, received from their friends in England.

As a proof of the sudden rise in the value of property in the island, I have been informed that a native of Cyprus, residing in Syria, possessed a small house and garden, of which he had been trying in vain to dispose for some time; at the modest price of 6,000 fr. As soon as it was surmised that the island was about to pass into English hands, he received, by telegraph, an offer of 25,000 fr. for his property; and when it became known that the occupation was an undoubted fact, this bid was increased, in the course of two or three days, to 120,000 fr. I am not aware whether any further advance was made upon this price.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 91.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, August 5, 1878, 11·30 P.M.

COUNT MAFFEI meant to convey that the necessity of a rectification of the Trentino frontier was a question now clearly laid before Europe; no communication that I am able to ascertain has passed between Austrian and Italian Governments on the subject.

I am informed that General Menabrea persists in leading his Government to believe that Her Majesty's Government are not opposed to it. His reports, however, are said not to be credited.

No. 92.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, August 5, 1878, 12 P.M.

ITALIAN Government have received copy of the telegram addressed to the Queen by the Sultan. They appear to look forward to the complications it may give rise to.

No. 93.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 718.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

SULTAN sent to tell me that he telegraphed to the Queen yesterday to ask Her Majesty to make an appeal in his behalf to the Emperor of Austria, to stop the advance of Austrian troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or, if possible, to withdraw them for the present. His Majesty earnestly hopes that you will support his request, and begs me to assure you that he has no intention whatever to evade compliance with decision of Congress, but that he only desires time to conciliate public opinion in those provinces to their occupation by Austria, and to make arrangements which will prevent the further effusion of blood. His Majesty has been informed that there has been a serious engagement in which there was a considerable loss of life on both sides.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 719.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Sandwith:—

("Confidential.)

"Grand Vizier informs me that he is ready to come to a satisfactory arrangement with Cretan Assembly as regards all conditions they ask, except the one requiring that in all administrative, judicial, and other bodies in the island, there shall be a majority of Christians. To this the Porte could not consent, and he gives good reasons against it. He proposes appointment of two High Commissioners to Crete, of one Mussulman and one Christian, for the administration of the island temporarily, until definitive arrangements are made for its government, and to communicate and come to an understanding with Cretan Chiefs. He looks to your good offices to bring about such understanding. I have every reason to believe that his Highness is sincerely desirous of dealing with Cretan question in a liberal and equitable spirit. As soon as Commissioners are appointed, one of whom will probably be Nicoluki, I will send you full instructions.

No. 95.

[Nil.]

No. 96.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 722.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 5, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador requested to-day that term might be fixed for evacuation of Batoum. Instructions have been sent to Dervish Pasha to report in what time arrangements can be made for the surrender of the place. Grand Vizier does not know whether the Lazes are still resolved to oppose the occupation of their country by the Russians.

Orders have been given to place the positions commanding Varna in the hands of the Russians. Russian Ambassador has promised Grand Vizier that Russian authorities shall be instructed to protect Mussulmans; but, after what has recently happened, Grand Vizier thinks of appealing to the Powers to name a Commission to see that Mussulmans are not ill-treated by the Russians and Bulgarians.

No. 97.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *August 6, 1878.*

I LEARN from Turkish Ambassador that he has informed Russian Government that Port of Varna will be surrendered at once, and the rest as soon as possible; also that Batoum will be handed over without delay. He believes orders have been sent to-day to commence withdrawal of part of Russian troops from neighbourhood of Constantinople.

No. 98.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 6, 1878.*

AT the request of Count Andrassy I have sent following telegram to Acting Consul Freeman:—

"Austrian Government have no news of their Consul-General since he left Bosna-Serai. Telegraph anything you can ascertain about him; and all possible information about position of affairs. If you can obtain information by the employment of special agents, the expense will be refunded to you."

No. 99.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 6, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY is desirous of knowing whether Her Majesty's Government are urging the Porte to hasten the cession of Varna.

He wishes that no pretext should be given to the Russians for remaining in their present positions near Constantinople, and thinks that our two Governments should press on the Porte to execute the decisions of the Congress in regard to that fortress.

No. 100.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 6, 1878.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Freeman:—

"August 5, 7 P.M. Austrians occupied Mostar this afternoon. Telegram received yesterday from the Porte not to resist Austrian occupation, but Hafis Pasha dare not to communicate it to the people. Every available (?) man is being sent for."

No. 101.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 6, 1878.*

THE Hungarian elections began yesterday, and few results are yet known; but M. Tisza, the President of the Hungarian Ministry, has been beaten by Simony, a leader of the Opposition.

No. 102.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, August 6, 1878.*

AN Austrian Colonel and ten junior officers have been engaged to instruct the Persian army.

An arrangement for obtaining the services of Austrian civilians for supervision of finance, Customs, police, and post-office is spoken of, but I am informed that nothing definite has been settled respecting them.

Sent to Viceroy.

No. 103.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 2·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to the telegrams from Sir H. Elliot, which have been repeated to your Excellency this day, you should remind the Porte that the defence of European Turkey against Russia must in future mainly devolve upon Austria, and that if the Porte makes an enemy of that Power, an alliance between Austria and Russia is inevitable.

No. 104.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 3·20 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government are prepared to send a Commissioner, as decided by the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, to Constantinople, to assist in elaborating the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

Inquire whether the Government to which you are accredited is also prepared to nominate a Commissioner at once.

No. 105.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 3 25 P.M.*

I APPROVE the instruction sent by your Excellency to Consul Sandwith, as reported in your telegram No. 713 of the 2nd instant.

No. 106.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 3·35 P.M.*

SEND me from day to day a word to let me know how the negotiations are getting on.

No. 108.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 7 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Rome:—

"Italian Government have received copy of the telegram addressed to the Queen by the Sultan; they appear to look forward to the complications it may give rise to."

It would be desirable to ascertain by whose orders this communication was made.

There is an evident intention to sow discord between Austria and England.

No. 109.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878.*

THE following is the answer of the Queen to the telegram addressed to Her Majesty by the Sultan:—

"The intelligence conveyed to me by your Majesty grieves me most deeply. I

have directed my Ambassador, Sir H. Elliot, to make such representations as may seem to him likely to prevent unnecessary effusion of blood. But the speedy completion of the occupation seems the surest mode of arresting the increasing anarchy."

No. 110.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

TAKE steps to ascertain what truth there is in the report contained in Mr. Corbett's telegram of the 3rd instant, the figures of which I repeated to you to-day.

No. 111.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this afternoon *en clair*, the following is the answer of the Queen to the telegram addressed to Her Majesty by the Sultan:—

(Telegram from the Queen to the Sultan, August 6.)

Queen is naturally anxious to stop needless bloodshed, and you should make my representations likely in your view to have that effect, but make it clearly understood we do not recede in the slightest degree from policy declared by us at Berlin.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 902. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878.*

I HAVE this day forwarded to you reports received by telegraph from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna as to the resistance offered by the population to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sir H. Elliot states, confidentially, that, in consequence of the aspect of affairs, it is Count Andrassy's intention to call upon the Turkish Government for a categorical declaration whether they regard the Austrian troops which have entered these provinces as friends or as enemies.

Your Excellency should take an opportunity to remind the Porte that it is upon the alliance of Austria that it must in future mainly rely for the defence of European Turkey against Russia: and that if the Turkish Government make an enemy of Austria, an alliance between that Power and Russia will inevitably follow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 905.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878.*

I RECEIVED, on the 3rd instant, your Excellency's telegram No. 713 of the previous day, informing me of the telegraphic instructions which you had forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul in Crete, and I have this day telegraphed to you to express my approval of those instructions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.[a]

(No. 910.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency is aware that it is provided by the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, that an European Commission should be formed in concert with the Ottoman Porte, immediately after the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty, for the purpose of elaborating the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

Her Majesty's Government are now prepared to send a Commissioner to Constantinople to represent them, who will be furnished with instructions to co-operate with the other Commissioners to be named on the part of Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, and the Porte in carrying out the intentions of the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, therefore, to instruct your Excellency to ascertain from the Government to which you are accredited, whether they also are prepared at once to nominate an official who shall represent the Turkish Government on this Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 913. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome reports to me by telegraph that the Italian Government have received a copy of the telegraphic message addressed by the Sultan to the Queen, requesting Her Majesty's good offices to procure a delay in the advance of the Austrian troops in Bosnia. Mr. Macdonell adds that the Italian Government seem to look forward to the complications which this appeal may occasion.

I have thought it right to inform your Excellency at once of the above. It would be desirable to ascertain by whose orders this communication was made to the Italian Government. The step seems to give evidence of an intention to sow discord between England and Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 401.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 6, 1878.*

I HAVE already transmitted to your Excellency a copy of Mr. Corbett's telegram of the 3rd instant, in which he reports a communication made to him by the Turkish Minister, to the effect that the French Ambassador at Constantinople, who had passed through Athens on his way here to Paris, had stated that he had informed the Sultan that the presence of the French squadron at Athens was intended as a demonstration against a possible attack by Turkey on Greece; that his Highness had inquired whether in that case France would declare war on Turkey, to which the French Ambassador had replied that they had no such intention, but would prevent any Turkish attack on the Greek coast.

I have to request that your Excellency will ascertain and report to me how far the statements recorded in Mr. Corbett's despatch are correct.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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[a] Similar instructions were sent to Mr. Plunkett, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Macdonell.

No. 117.

Consul Abbott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tabreez, June 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that my Russian colleague, M. Krébel, recently received a telegram from Tiflis, announcing, amongst other items of political intelligence, that the town of Kotoor, on the frontier of Koordistan, was to be ceded by Turkey to Persia.

It would appear from the map that Kotoor is a place of some importance in a strategical point of view. The Kotoor Pass leads to Van, and is one of the keys of Mesopotamia. The acquisition of a town so situated by Persia would be equivalent to its possession by Russia, and therefore most undesirable on all grounds.

I had several opportunities of speaking on frontier matters, during his stay at Tabreez, with Fahri Bey, the newly-accredited Turkish Ambassador to the Persian Court, and in the course of conversation I drew his Excellency's attention to the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of San Stefano, which refers to the town of Kotoor and to the definitive delimitation of the Turko-Persian frontier. I was anxious to ascertain in what light the Ambassador viewed that Article, and ventured to express my opinion that any pretensions raised by Persia with regard to Kotoor ought not to be tolerated by the Porte. His Excellency said that he interpreted the Article I referred to rather as an expression of Russia's intention to occupy a vantage ground between Turkey and Persia, to enable her to exercise active interference when questions arose on the Turko-Persian frontier, than as revealing a design on her part to acquire fresh territory by making a tool of Persia.

Telegrams purporting to contain news of vast political importance are frequently sent to Russian officials in this part of Persia, and, if it suits their purpose, largely circulated for the benefit of the public. Without, therefore, attaching in the present instance any undue importance to the intelligence received by my colleague, I have considered it my duty to report it to your Lordship.

If the cession of Kotoor to Persia be really projected, your Lordship, I trust, will pardon my observing that such a transaction would be unjust and humiliating to the Porte, as well as injurious to the true interests of the Persian Government. By the possession of Kotoor the Shah would acquire nothing but a fresh legacy of Koords and other insubordinate subjects. There would be interminable border warfare between Persia and Turkey. Persia could not hold Kotoor, and the probability is that Russia would intervene and eventually occupy it.

But if, on the other hand, this rumour be devoid of truth, its circulation in this province is calculated to mislead the public mind. Such reports, my Lord, emanating from such a source, must be spread with the view of encouraging Persia to indulge in delusive hopes; whereas she ought to be aware that reliance upon Russia is accelerating her destruction, and that her only safe course is to cultivate friendly relations with her neighbour Turkey and Her Majesty's Government.

I am sending the present despatch under flying seal to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 118.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 96. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July 24, 1878.*

A LETTER from Poti, dated the 16th instant, states that, notwithstanding the decision of the Congress, the works of defence are pushed on with energy, and that great excitement prevails in the town.

Torpedoes are being got ready, formidable fortifications are erected along the River Karapatza, which is situated at two or three miles south of Poti, and is navigable for small craft; and a reserve railway station is built at seven versts from the sea-shore. Redoubts are constructed at Saunava, and heavy guns placed on the heights commanding Sikinalir.

General Franchini has been appointed Commander of Kars, and General Komaroff of Batoum.

A sailing boat just arrived from Poti brings the news that four large steamers had arrived in that port with troops on board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 119.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 952.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by a Christian gentleman of Diarbekir of much local influence and of high respectability. I have had the substance of it embodied in a Memorandum for the Porte, without, of course, mentioning the writer's name.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 119.

M. Bayajian to Sir A. H. Layard.

Kharpoot, July 3, 1878.

Sir,

BEING assured that your Excellency is taking (especially at this critical time) a very deep interest in the settlement of the affairs of this country, I take the liberty of giving you some information about the present state of the Vilayet of Diarbekir. Having been myself for the last five years a member of the highest Council of the vilayet, whatever information I may give your Excellency may be sure that it is the result of my experience and well-founded. Before the breaking out of this war, the relations between the Mahommedans and Christians was the same as it was in other parts of this Empire, but before the breaking out of this present war, Ahmed Tevfik Pasha was appointed as Governor-General. This person being careless about the welfare of the people, and seeking only to enrich himself by taking bribes and selling posts to wicked persons, by his ill-conduct brought a general evil upon all the people, both Mahommedans and Christians. The complaints of the poor people were heard, and the Sublime Porte, dismissing him, appointed as his successor the former Vali of Baghdad, his Excellency Hagi Abdul Rahman Pasha, our present Vali. Besides being a very patriotic and intelligent, he is a just and upright person; from the beginning of his office we saw in him such qualities as caused us to hope that he would be able at once to remedy the evils created by his predecessor; he at once dismissed some of the subordinate officers, and had a strict watch upon the conduct of others, telling them very plainly that if he should see any unfaithfulness and misbehaviour in them in performing their duties he will at once dismiss and punish them. Unfortunately, the war commenced, and his Excellency's attention and energy naturally was directed to some more urgent affairs; and the business of reformation and the punishment of the miscreants were left undone. During the time of the war Christians of these parts had some very hard times; and the Mahommedans were constantly threatening to massacre and extirpate them all. But thanks to the intrepidity and watchfulness of our Vali, who day and night watched to protect the Christians from any violence, we were spared from harm of any sort. But some of the discontented and wicked persons, who have been accustomed to oppress and plunder the poor under the old Vali, finding themselves unable to do so, and others being out of employment, united themselves in a league, and began to collect signatures from some simple-minded Mahommedans by circulating such rumours as they thought could deceive them; thus they succeeded to send a petition to Constantinople, representing the Vali as a ruiner of this vilayet, and speaking against his well-earned reputation in a manner that I feel ashamed to repeat.

His Excellency being well known in Constantinople, the Sublime Porte did not pay any attention to the lies of the petitioners, but these wicked men took another measure. They began to excite the Chiefs of the Kurdish tribes in this vilayet to revolt, and they did so, and are causing great troubles everywhere. They are plundering the villages, robbing and sometimes killing the travellers, and imperilling

the safety of all, so much so that three weeks ago, when I was coming from Diarbekir to Kharpoot with my family, we could not venture to travel without escort and a large caravan. Besides inciting the Kurds in this manner, these wicked men employ bands of thieves to break into houses of a night, and thus they try to show that the Vali is incapable of governing.

If I was to describe all the disorders and mischief caused by these ill-intentioned men, I should tax your Excellency's time and patience too much. Our Vali, finding himself without adequate force to suppress and punish the authors of all these mischiefs, has applied to Constantinople, either to give him fuller authority and force to punish these men, or accept his resignation, though the Sublime Porte declined to accept the latter; yet with regard to the first he was left to deal with them in a way which could not have any effect. Such cases, as your Excellency is aware, must be prosecuted and tried in the Judicial Court, which is called Tamizi Houkoula. The members of this Court in Diarbekir are most corrupt, bad, and in league with the above-mentioned evil characters. Thus it is almost impossible to prove anything against them in this Court. The members of this Court have been in office for many years, and have associated themselves with robbers and murderers by getting bribes and protecting them, and a large share of the spoil is going to them. In vain our Vali has applied to the Sublime Porte to get permission to change them. Having received no favourable answer, it has been impossible for the Vali to bring these men to their senses.

As long as this Tribunal remains in its present condition, we cannot expect to see justice done to any sufferer, and, consequently, the state of things will go on from bad to worse to the ruin of all. Some soldiers were sent lately to suppress the excesses of the Kurds, but the extent of the disorder is so great, that without an adequate force and fuller power to the Vali nothing can be effected. While Mr. Rassam was in Diarbekir, I think he informed your Excellency about some of these affairs. The evil has since been increased, and a remedy is urgently needed.

As your Excellency's influence is paramount with the Sublime Porte, you will confer a great and lasting benefit to all, especially to the Christians in this vilayet, if you advise the authorities in Constantinople to take all necessary and adequate measures to prevent and stop all these evils and punish the authors of them. All good people in this vilayet are very grateful for having the present Vali as their Governor-General, in whose impartiality and justice they can perfectly rely. If the Turkish Government had one or two dozen public servants like him, we could all expect to see the intended reform realized.

Begging your Excellency to excuse the liberty thus I have taken, I remain, &c.
(Signed) T. BAYAJIAN.

No. 120.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 953.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1878.*

ON the 17th instant the Representatives of the Foreign Powers met at this Embassy to take into consideration a communication made by the Grand Vizier to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, our "Doyen," on the subject of the tax of 2 per cent. which it is proposed to add, provisionally, to the Customs duties of Constantinople, with the object of providing means to send to their homes the large number of fugitives from the Turkish provinces in Europe who are now in the capital. Safvet Pasha suggests that we should return to the original proposal, with which your Lordship is acquainted, of limiting the collection of this surtax to Constantinople, which had been dropped in consequence of the attempt made by Sadyk Pasha, when Prime Minister, to extend it to other ports of the Empire. The inclosed account from the "Phare du Bosphore," evidently communicated by one of my colleagues, of what has taken place in this matter, and of what passed at our meeting, is sufficiently complete and trustworthy. I have the honour to add a copy of the Minute of the decision come to at the meeting held at the Embassy, which the French Ambassador was good enough to draw up.

As it appeared evident from what passed on that occasion that the German Government, probably acting in concert with Russia, would not agree to the additional tax, I have little or no hope that an understanding will be come to on the subject.

However, before taking any further steps, my colleagues and myself are waiting to learn the result of the reference made by the German Chargé d'Affaires to Berlin. If the decision should be unfavourable, the matter will, of course, fall through.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore."

LE RAPATRIEMENT DES RÉFUGIÉS DE LA GUERRE.—Nous avons dit que les Chefs de mission s'étaient réunis la semaine dernière au Palais de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Thérapia pour discuter la surtaxe de 2 pour cent sur les droits de Douane, surtaxe proposée par les Consuls à l'effet de pourvoir aux frais de rapatriement des émigrés.

Le Corps Diplomatique s'était assemblé une première fois le 26 Avril dernier. Deux réunions préliminaires avaient été tenues le 15 et le 16 du même mois par les Consuls, sous la présidence de leur Doyen, M. Oesterreicher, Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Dans ces deux réunions préliminaires, les Consuls avaient admis en principe la nécessité des mesures promptes et radicales afin d'obvier aux terribles conséquences, pour l'hygiène publique, de l'agglomération à Constantinople des réfugiés de la guerre.

A cette époque, le nombre des réfugiés était estimé à 60,000 environ; le Gouvernement en avait déjà éloigné plus de 60,000 et il en était mort près de 18,000. Il faut noter que les arrivages d'émigrés, quoique beaucoup moins considérables, n'avaient pas encore cessé à ce moment. D'après des données officielles, le chiffre de la mortalité chez les réfugiés s'élevait à deux et même trois sur 1,000 par jour. Le typhus exanthématique faisait de terribles ravages parmi eux, et commençait à s'étendre à la population indigène.

L'impuissance de l'autorité locale étant reconnue, les Consuls convinrent de la nécessité de leur intervention. Il restait à pourvoir aux frais considérables de cette entreprise, à trouver les moyens pratiques d'atteindre, aussi rapidement que possible, au but que les Consuls se proposaient.

On estima les frais à 2,000,000 fr. Le Consul de France considérant que la capitale avait, la première, intérêt à se débarrasser des émigrés, et qu'elle devrait par conséquent fournir le moyen de les éloigner, proposa une augmentation de 10 pour cent sur les droits de Douane.

Le Consul d'Allemagne éleva une première objection. Il demanda si un pareil impôt ne porterait pas atteinte aux capitulations, aux Tarifs de Douane annexés aux Traités de Commerce.

Le Consul de Grèce rappela que le droit de péage au Pont de Galata avait été doublé et émit l'idée que cette taxe, intégralement perçue et sagement administrée, suffirait peut-être aux frais de renvoi des émigrés.

Le Consul d'Italie demanda si un impôt foncier ne serait pas une meilleure base d'opération.

Ces divers projets furent développés dans la première assemblée Consulaire. La seconde fut consacrée à leur examen. Un des Directeurs de la Banque Ottomane, M. von Hoss, que la réunion avait convoqué, proposa un quatrième moyen: de pourvoir au rapatriement par une nouvelle émission d'un Company de livres en papier monnaie qui serait amortie au moyen d'une augmentation de droits de Douane.

Mais cette mesure ne rencontra pas l'approbation de la majorité qui paraissait au contraire vouloir se rallier au projet de M. Dobignie, Consul de France.

Mr. Fawcett déclara que son Gouvernement ne refuserait pas, suivant toutes probabilités, son consentement à un surcroît de Douane, mais, qu'il préférerait tout autre moyen, par exemple, de faire contribuer tous les Gouvernements aux frais nécessaires au renvoi des émigrés, plutôt que de grever le commerce d'un impôt extraordinaire.

Plusieurs Consuls firent observer que sans un vote des Chambres, les divers Etats ne pouvaient distraire une somme, si minime qu'elle soit, de leur budget; que ce moyen n'était donc ni prompt, ni pratique.

La proposition du Consul de France fut alors acceptée et formulée, pour être soumise aux Chefs des Missions, dans les termes suivants:—

1. Création d'une Commission Mixte composée de fonctionnaires Turcs et Européens, pour s'occuper de l'exemption de la ville qui les rendra nécessaires.

2. Etablissement d'un droit d'octroi sur toute marchandise entrant dans la consommation de la ville calculé sur la base de 25 pour cent des droits payés en Douane.

La proposition des Consuls fut examinée dans une réunion plénière des Chefs de Mission, le 26 Avril, à Thérapia.

Plusieurs Chefs de Mission déclarèrent qu'ils n'avaient pas encore reçu les instructions de leur Gouvernement.

Néanmoins, la majorité de la réunion acceptait l'augmentation de 2 pour cent sur les droits de Douane, qui, fixés par les Traités à 8, s'élèveraient ainsi à 10 pour cent, mais sous les conditions suivantes:—

1. Que les Ambassades et les Légations surveilleraient la perception de cet impôt extraordinaire.

2. Qu'ils en surveilleraient également l'application.

C'est une garantie pour les contribuables qu'il ne sera rien perçu au-delà de la somme strictement nécessaire.

Cette somme étant évaluée à 380,000 livres environ et le produit annuel des Douanes à Constantinople s'élevant en chiffres ronds à 1,500,000 de livres Turques, la surtaxe proposée couvrirait amplement, dans l'espace de six mois, les frais de l'entreprise.

Dans une note adressée au Comte Zichy, Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, Savfet Pacha adjoignit à l'intervention des Représentants des Puissances, par le moyen d'une Commission Mixte composée d'un Drogman de chaque Mission et d'un Délégué Ottoman, mais il proposait, en revanche, que la perception de l'impôt provisoire fût confiée à la Banque Ottomane, sans préjudice toutefois du contrôle de la Commission Mixte. La note du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères fut discutée dans la séance tenue, également à Thérapia, Mardi, 17 courant.

L'Ambassadeur de France, M. Fournier, combattit le système proposé dans cette note, système qui ne présente pas toutes les garanties nécessaires dans une opération si délicate. Il ajouta que la Banque Ottomane étant si intimement liée au Gouvernement, qu'on la pouvait considérer comme une Banque d'Etat.

Il persista dans l'idée première que les Ambassades et les Légations, qui ont pris l'initiative de la proposition, doivent contrôler elles-mêmes la perception, surveiller en un mot toutes les opérations se rattachant à ce projet.

La réunion décida, à la majorité, de répondre à la note de Savfet Pacha dans le sens indiqué par l'Ambassadeur de France et de charger le Comte Zichy de cette réponse.

Les Ministres des Etats-Unis et de Belgique déclarèrent qu'ils ne pouvaient pas, faute d'instructions, se prononcer encore.

L'Internonce d'Autriche-Hongrie, les Chargés d'Affaires d'Italie et d'Allemagne réservèrent leur approbation en insistant que leur Gouvernement, hésitant à adhérer à cette surtaxe qui frappe directement l'importation étrangère, modifie les Traités et les Tarifs en vigueur.

Le Ministre de Grèce, Diplomate exact, croyons-nous, de cette intéressante question, s'abstint, la France, l'Angleterre et l'Autriche-Hongrie, pour ne parler que des Grandes Puissances, sont disposées à voir en elle, par des sacrifices qu'elle impose tout à leur commerce national, au Gouvernement Turc, lequel ne peut suffire, avec ses ressources actuelles, aux nombreux réfugiés qui vivent misérablement à Constantinople.

L'Allemagne et l'Italie ne se sont pas encore catégoriquement expliquées, mais il est à craindre qu'elles ne se prononcent définitivement contre la surtaxe proposée.

La Russie, intéressée dans la question, a caché jusqu'ici la plus mystérieuse réserve; mais on peut raisonnablement être sûr quelle est son opinion au sujet du rapatriement des réfugiés de la Roumélie. Il suffit de la non adhésion d'une seule Puissance pour faire avorter le projet. En effet, le traitement inégal qui en résulterait pour les Puissances non-contractantes jetterait une profonde perturbation dans leur commerce et leur navigation.

Toutes les marchandises à destination de Constantinople seraient naturellement expédiées sous pavillon Allemand ou Italien, si, par hypothèse, l'une de ces deux Puissances s'adhérait pas à la surtaxe, qui si la surtaxe était appliquée aux autres pavillons.

Ce serait un marché de dupe qu'aucun pays n'est disposé à conclure.

Nous n'avons pas à noter présentement l'opportunité de la surtaxe, ni ses conséquences. Voici notre espérance que le rapatriement des réfugiés s'accomplira sans retard. Nous croyons en exprimant ce vœu, à des considérations plus élevées, que toutes, celles que peuvent inspirer les intérêts commerciaux. Nous croyons que c'est un devoir d'humanité de rendre à leurs foyers ces milliers et des milliers de

familles exposées à la mort, et condamnées depuis de longs mois à tant de souffrances et de privations.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Minute.

DÈS le mois d'Avril dernier, les Représentants des Puissances Etrangères à Constantinople, adoptant une proposition du Corps Consulaire, ont pensé qu'il y avait lieu de recourir à des mesures exceptionnelles afin de venir au secours des nombreux réfugiés que les désastres de la guerre repoussaient à Constantinople, où la santé publique se ressentait des suites de cette agglomération de misères.

Ils avaient donc, après délibération chez son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, le 26 Avril, décidé de proposer à leurs Gouvernements d'établir une surtaxe de 25 pour cent à l'importation sur les droits de Douane, à la Douane de Constantinople, et d'employer, pendant le temps qui serait fixé à cette perception exceptionnelle, les sommes qui en proviendraient, à l'amélioration du sort immédiat des réfugiés, mais surtout à leur rapatriement.

Mais ils mettaient et ils mettent à la mise en pratique de cette proposition, toute de charité internationale, et qui constitue un véritable sacrifice pécuniaire, volontaire et spontané, les conditions suivantes et expresses, à agréer par le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte :—

1. Une Commission Internationale *ad hoc*, composée d'un Délégué par Mission, et d'un Délégué Ottoman, sera nommé par les Représentants des Puissances et par le Gouvernement Ottoman.

2. La surtaxe de 25 pour cent sur les droits de Douane ne sera pas confondue avec les droits de Douane, mais perçue à part, en sortant de la Douane par exemple, d'après le recu des droits de Douane, et cette perception surveillée par les soins de la Commission Internationale.

3. La Commission encaissera ces fonds dans sa caisse privée ou dans celle de telle personne qu'elle déléguera à cet effet, et de la façon dont elle sera convenue avec les autorités Turques.

4. Cette surtaxe de 25 pour cent (c'est-à-dire du quart des droits de Douane) sera perçue sur toute marchandise quelconques frappées de taxe à la Douane de Constantinople, de quelque lieu qu'en soit la provenance.

5. Le terme de la perception de la surtaxe sera de six mois de date fixée, et pourra être prolongé sur une nouvelle décision des Chefs de Missions.

6. La Commission gérera exclusivement les fonds.

7. Elle autorisera les dépenses après s'être rendu compte de leur nécessité et de la réalité des choses, sous sa propre responsabilité. Tous moyens de vérification lui seront donnés, et elle les indiquera elle-même s'il lui convient, en un mot elle jouira de la plus complète indépendance.

Il est bien entendu que la mesure ne pourrait être définitivement adoptée et passer dans la pratique que si toutes les Puissances y avaient donné leur consentement. Elle ne peut, en effet, répondre au but proposé que si elle est générale.

No. 121.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 954.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1878.*

THE state of affairs in Mount Rhodope and the adjoining districts not occupied by the Russians may end in causing serious embarrassment to the Porte. As your Lordship is aware, a certain Mr. St. Clair has placed himself at the head of the Mussulmans who have risen in arms to protect themselves against the Russians and Bulgarians. He seems to possess and exercise military and civil authority. He signs himself in letters which he has addressed to myself and others "Commander-in-chief of the army of the Pomak nation." I understand that he collects the tithes and raises the taxes, and has established a kind of civil Government. He has with him several Polish and Hungarian adventurers, whom, I am told, he leads the Pomaks to believe are Englishmen of rank.

A short time ago when an English gentleman with whom I am acquainted, and who has warned me of what is taking place, went into the Rhodope district to obtain information as to the position of affairs in it, he was announced by Mr. St. Clair to his followers as a great English Pasha, who had been sent to him on an important diplomatic mission. My informant had some difficulty in extricating himself from the awkward position in which he found himself placed. By these artifices Mr. St. Clair has led the Pomaks and the Mussulmans from the plains who have joined them to believe that they have the support of England, and has induced them to place themselves under the protection of the British Government. As "autonomy" is now the order of the day, they have declared themselves to be an "autonomous Pomak nation." They consider that they have as much right to "autonomy" as their neighbours, not understanding that it is a purely Christian institution. Mr. St. Clair, I am told, encourages their claims to be a Mussulman nation, and to be governed by the "Shariah" or Mussulman law, as he is one of the disciples of Mr. Urquhart and Ali Suair Effendi, who believed that Turkey could only be regenerated through the Mahommedan faith and Turkish institutions. However, the Pomaks appear to have treated the few Christians who live amongst them with perfect justice and toleration, and although Mahommedan villages within sight of the lines they occupy are destroyed and their inhabitants cruelly outraged and massacred, no acts of retaliation have been committed by them. My informant told me that nothing surprised him more during his visit to the Pomaks than the security enjoyed by the Christians, although surrounded by tens of thousands of victims of Christian brutality and persecution.

The Russians appear to have refrained from attacking the Pomaks of late, chiefly, I believe, from the representations made by your Lordship, through Count Schouvaloff, to the Russian Government. But the Porte has taken no measures to restore its authority in the districts which they hold. There is apparently no other Government in them except that of Mr. St. Clair and his Polish and Hungarian companions. These gentlemen, I am told, are organizing a considerable disciplined force composed of the Mussulman inhabitants of the country, of fugitives from Bulgaria, and of soldiers who had disbanded on the retreat of Suleiman Pasha's army in the winter. This force may hereafter cause considerable trouble to the Porte. It may resist the return of the Turkish authorities, or, if broken up, there is a fair chance of a large number of those who belong to it taking to brigandage.

I have strongly advised the Grand Vizier to take measures, without delay, to prevent the danger which is thus threatened, and his Highness expresses his intention of doing so by sending officers with a sufficient force to restore the authority of the Porte. I trust that means will be found to remove Mr. St. Clair and his friends. It is by no means desirable that the English name should be mixed up with their proceedings. The Russians appear to suspect that they are English Agents, and it is generally reported that the Pomaks are commanded by English officers. By leading the Mussulmans of Mount Rhodope to believe that they have the sympathy and support of England, and may hope to obtain her direct protection, he is encouraging an insurrection against the Sultan and his Government which may lead to much bloodshed, and be the cause of fresh disorders in Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 122.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 955.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 29, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 699 to your Lordship, repeating a telegram that I had sent to Consul Sandwith, I have the honour to inclose a memorandum of the statement made by the Grand Vizier to Mr. Sandison with regard to the pacification of Crete and the arrangements which his Highness is willing to make for the future administration of the island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Memorandum.

IN accordance with the promise made by the Grand Vizier some two or three months ago, in reference to reforms in Crete, his Highness has again expressed his readiness to accept the mediation of England, and to come to an early understanding with your Excellency as to the modifications to be introduced into the Organic Law, and the reforms which would be calculated to satisfy the reasonable requirements of the island.

His Highness is anxious that the insurgents should be induced to disband immediately, so that tranquillity may at once be restored in the island. I told his Highness that this could not be effected until you had ascertained, through Her Majesty's Consul in Crete, the views of the Provisional Government of the insurgent Chiefs on the subject of the reforms required, and until you had obtained the Porte's authority to instruct Mr. Consul Sandwith to give them proper assurances respecting the reforms in question. Before giving this authority his Highness will accordingly wait to hear from your Excellency on what bases or proposals a new arrangement could be come to in regard to the future administration of the island, which he hopes will not be of a nature to supersede entirely the existing Organic Law, which, in some respects, is certainly advantageous to the interests of the Cretans.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, July 28, 1878.

No. 123.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 656.) *Therapia, July 29, 1878.*

My Lord.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the telegrams sent to myself and Count Zichy by the British and Austro-Hungarian members of the Commission of Inquiry into the condition of the Mussulman fugitives in the districts of Mount Rhodope, and of the minutes of the proceedings of the Commission.

In reply to the telegrams from the British, French, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners, stating that their Russian colleague was endeavouring to stop the inquiries in which they were engaged, and threatened to break up the Commission by withdrawing from it, they have been directed to continue their inquiries as long as they are in a majority, notwithstanding the opposition and withdrawal of M. Basily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose copy of a further telegram which has been received from the Commission on the 1st August.

Inclosure 1 in No. 123.

Colonel de Raab to Count Zichy.

Cavalla, le 27 Juillet, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

COMMISSION, arrivée mardi à Xanthi, a trouvé nombre considérable de réfugiés; elle a vu, entendu, et interrogé les apportés hostiles. Mercredi elle nouvra des délégués de chacun des villages d'où viennent les réfugiés pour les interroger sur ce qu'ils ont souffert.

Inclosure 2 in No. 123.

Colonel de Raab to Count Zichy.

Dedeagatch, le 27 Juillet, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

TROIS Consuls à Dédéagatch disent que le brigand Petko y séjourne et qu'il porte l'uniforme Russe.

Inclosure 3 in No. 123.

Messrs. de Raab, Fawcett, Grazziani and Chollet to Count Zichy.

Cavalla, le 27 Juillet, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

A la suite de dispositions relatives aux résultats dont ont souffert les réfugiés, Commissaire Russe, en partie soutenu par Allemand, s'oppose maintenant, bien que décision ait été prise à l'unanimité sur le mode de procédure à suivre dans la recherche des motifs qui ont obligé les réfugiés à quitter leur pays et qui les empêchent encore d'y retourner, à ce que, conformément à nos instructions, nous enrégistrions dans les procès-verbaux les réponses ayant trait à leurs souffrances, et demande que la Commission suspende ses travaux avant d'avoir reçu l'opinion de son chef à ce sujet. Commissaires Turquie, Angleterre, Autriche, France et Italie persistent dans la décision déjà prise, décidant de ne pas attendre et continuer travaux.

Commissaires au complet partis Samedi matin pour Gumuldjina sans attendre réponse. Prière de communiquer aux Représentants Angleterre, France, Italie.

Inclosure 4 in No. 123.

Messrs. Fawcett, de Raab and Chollet to Sir A. H. Layard.

Cavalla, July 27, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

EVIDENCE of most of the refugees concerning atrocities committed by Russian soldiers is unanswerable. M. Basily, the Russian Commissioner, wishes to stop these accusations, many of which German acknowledges to be true. M. Basily says he will retire, and so put an end to the Commission.

Inclosure 5 in No. 123.

Procès-Verbal of the First Sitting of the Rhodope Commission.

Ce jourd'hui, 21 Juillet, 1878, leurs Excellences Naschid Pacha, ex-Gouverneur du Vilayet de Syrie, et Riza Bey, Délégués par la Porte; et MM. Le Colonel Raab, Attaché Militaire à l'Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie; Fawcett, Consul-Général d'Angleterre; Juge Suprême; Omlet, Consul, Gérant par intérim le Consulat de France à Constantinople; Basily, Premier Secrétaire de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie; Graziani, Drogman de la Légation de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie; Multer, Vice-Consul d'Allemagne à Constantinople; réunis dans une salle de la gare du chemin de fer à Philippopolis en Commission régulièrement constituée, en vertu des pouvoirs qui ont été conférés à chacun d'eux par les Chefs des Missions à Constantinople des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et à la suite d'une décision du Congrès;

On décide, conformément aux instructions collectives qu'ils ont reçues, de se mettre immédiatement en rapport avec le Commissaire Impérial Russe en Bulgarie, Prince Gondoukoff Koudacheff pour le prier de leur faciliter l'accomplissement de la mission qui leur est confiée, notamment en leur accordant;

1. Un sauf-conduit qui leur permette de parcourir tout le territoire occupé par les troupes Russes dans les lieux où doit s'exercer leur mission partout, et le jour où besoin sera.

2. Une escorte dans les endroits soumis à sa juridiction partout où cette escorte serait jugée utile, soit par les autorités Russes, soit par les Commissaires eux-mêmes, pour leur sûreté personnelle.

La Commission pense également qu'elle doit profiter de cette première entrevue avec le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Impériale pour prendre quelques renseignements préalables

et généraux relativement à la possibilité éventuelle du rapatriement des émigrés dans toutes les contrées actuellement occupées par l'armée Russe. Il est entendu, d'ailleurs, qu'il ne s'agit dans cette conversation que d'indications générales destinées à guider la Commission dans ses informations ultérieures.

Ces décisions sont acceptées à l'unanimité et, à l'unanimité aussi, la Commission désigne le Colonel Raab, qui accepte, comme son Président, chargé en toute circonstance de parler en son nom.

M. Challet est chargé de remplir les fonctions de Secrétaire.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Pour copie conforme:
Le Président de la Commission,
(Signed) Raab, *Colonel*.

Inclosure 6 in No. 123.

Procès-Verbal of the Second Sitting of the Rhodope Commission.

CE même jour, 21 Juillet, à 3 heures de l'après-midi, la Commission réunie au Palais du Commissariat Impérial, à la suite de l'entrevue qu'elle venait d'avoir avec le Prince Dondoukoff, confie à son Secrétaire le soin de rédiger une notice retraçant les points les plus saillants de la conversation du Prince, et passe à l'examen de l'itinéraire qu'elle aura à suivre dans son enquête.

L'opinion fut unanime sur la nécessité de commencer la mission par les localités où les émigrés se sont agglomérés en plus grand nombre; les souffrances doivent y être plus vives, l'intérêt plus immédiat.

Or, sur les indications de Mr. Fawcett, le district de Gumurdjina paraissant le plus éprouvé, la Commission décide de s'y transporter immédiatement: mais le chemin le plus direct n'étant ni le plus rapide ni le plus prudent, en raison de la difficulté des routes et de la nécessité d'aborder les lieux où la sécurité n'existe pas au-delà des lignes Russes, la Commission adopte le projet de tourner l'obstacle en passant par Andrinople, Dédéagh, et Lagos ou Cavalla. Elle reprendra donc, le soir même, le chemin de fer pour Andrinople, afin d'arriver à temps pour profiter demain du train de Dédéagh. Mr. Fawcett annonce qu'il a demandé à son Gouvernement de vouloir bien mettre un bâtiment de guerre à la disposition de la Commission; il espère que ce vapeur sera à Dédéagh à l'arrivée du train; une fois à Dédéagh, la Commission réglera la suite de son itinéraire d'après les circonstances; en attendant, elle prie son Président d'informer le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Impériale de ses décisions et de le remercier du bienveillant accueil qu'Il en a reçu.

Le Prince sera plus tard informé, en temps utile, du jour où la Commission retournera dans les lignes Russes.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Président de la Commission Européenne du Rhodope,
(Signé) Raab, *Colonel*.

Inclosure 7 in No. 123.

Procès-Verbal of the Third Sitting of the Rhodope Commission.

AUJOURD'HUI, 21 Juillet, 1878, la Commission, réunie au complet dans une salle de l'Agence du Lloyd Austro-Hongrois, entend la lecture de la notice demandée au Secrétaire dans la séance précédente, en approuve le contenu modifié par les souvenirs de plusieurs des Délégués, et déclare qu'elle est annexée au présent procès-verbal.

M. Basily donne connaissance à la Commission qui lui en fait la demande, du sauf-conduit par lequel le Prince Doudoukoff, en chargeant M. Yousefvitch d'être son intermédiaire auprès de toutes les autorités civiles et militaires placées sous ses ordres, prescrit à ces dernières d'accorder au Délégués le libre passage sur tout le territoire occupé par les troupes Russes, de même que l'entrée et la sortie là où la Commission jugera utile dans le rayon d'occupation d'un côté ou de l'autre des avant-postes, en lui fournissant en deça des lignes, guide, escorte et courtoisie de manière à lui faciliter l'accomplissement de sa tâche.

La Commission décide qu'elle continuera son voyage le même jour jusqu'à Xanthe, où elle s'entendra sur la manière dont elle doit procéder à son enquête.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Président de la Commission,
(Signé) Raab, *Colonel*.

Inclosure 8 in No. 123.

Annex to the Third Procès-Verbal.

EN conformité de la décision prise ce matin, la Commission de Rhodope se rendit chez le Commissaire Impériale de Russie à Philippopolis et fut présentée au Prince Dondoukoff par son Président.

Le Prince, dont la Commission ne saurait trop reconnaître le gracieux accueil, et qui connaissait déjà les motifs de cette visite, et le but humanitaire de la mission des Délégués, voulut leur donner immédiatement les preuves de ses bienveillantes dispositions, et de l'intérêt qu'il attachait à leur mandat, en leur communiquant un grand nombre de renseignements fort précieux, tant sur l'attitude et l'esprit des populations soumises à sa juridiction administrative que sur les moyens déjà employés ou d'emploi possible à ses yeux dans l'avenir pour ramener les émigrés vers leurs anciennes demeures.

Le Prince insista tout particulièrement sur la rancune que les derniers événements avaient inculquée dans les deux populations d'origine Turque et Bulgare, rancune telle que le voisinage immédiat des deux ennemis entraînerait forcément dans un grand nombre de villages, Batak entre autres, et notamment vers les points limitrophes des Balkans, tels qu'Eski-Zagra, Yeni-Zagra, Chipka, et toute la Vallée de Tundja, de Sapot jusqu'à Haïn-Boghaz, de nouveaux désordres et des représailles sanglantes que l'autorité Russe serait impuissante à reprimer; il exposa les difficultés insurmontables, suivant lui, qui s'opposeraient à la rentrée des Turcs dans ceux de leurs villages aujourd'hui habités par les Bulgares, à la suite de la destruction des villages de ces derniers.

L'Administration Russe ne peut permettre aux émigrés de s'installer dans leurs foyers, qu'après avoir obtenu une autorisation préalable accordée à la suite d'une enquête assez minutieuse. En effet, l'autorité Ottomane est appelée à dresser les listes dont les noms sont soumis aux Chefs de Sandjak, et de ces listes, après des renseignements recueillis par les autorités locales sur les lieux où les requérants veulent retourner, on élimine tout individu compromis, réputé dangereux, ou désigné à la vengeance publique par ses antécédents. Ce triage opéré, l'autorité Russe croit pouvoir répondre de la sécurité des rapatriés; mais sans cet épurement le Prince redouterait des désordres ou des massacres, même si l'on colonisait les proscrits dans les localités spéciales comprises dans les limites des nouvelles Provinces de la Bulgarie et de la Roumelie, quelqu'éloignées que soient ces localités du théâtre des événements. La colonisation de ces proscrits ne pourrait donc s'effectuer qu'en dehors de ces provinces, et l'amnestie générale à laquelle un des Commissaires a fait allusion, semble au Prince une solution impossible, toujours en raison des prédispositions d'esprit des deux populations.

En ce qui concerne la police en général dans la circonscription militaire, le Prince estime que la gendarmerie Bulgare en voie de formation serait insuffisante à assurer et garantir la tranquillité et le bon ordre au cas du retour des émigrés sous les précautions plus haut; car non-seulement elle est composée d'un trop petit nombre d'enrôlés, mais encore on ne pourrait compter que sur la gendarmerie à cheval.

Relativement au rapatriement, le Prince prévient la Commission qu'il doit faire des réserves, en ce qui concerne la santé publique, et qu'il serait obligé de repousser tout individu ou groupe d'invidus atteint de maladie contagieuse et surtout de la petite vérole noire.

La rentrée ne devrait s'effectuer que par petit groupe de cinquante à cent individus tout au plus, de manière à assurer le ravitaillement et la sécurité pendant le voyage. Le désarmement est et doit être obligatoire.

En attendant le retour des émigrés l'autorité Russe s'est préoccupée de sauvegarder leurs récoltes. En vertu d'un règlement existant les Bulgares y ont été employés et pour salaire il leur est donné la moitié du produit; l'autre moitié, déduction faite de la dîme, demeure en dépôt aux mains de l'Administration, qui la remet au fur et à mesure des demandes aux ayant droit.

Cependant, après le 1er Septembre le produit non réclamé sera retenu au profit de l'Administration locale, ainsi que le sont et le seront toutes les récoltes appartenant

aux individus compromis par des accusations relatives aux massacres des dernières années.

Passant à un autre ordre d'idées à l'occasion de la route que nous devrons suivre, le Prince affirma que depuis son arrivée à Philippopolis, c'est-à-dire depuis cinq à six semaines, tous les bruits relatifs à l'insurrection du Rhodope étaient inexacts; qu'il ne pouvait, d'ailleurs, ainsi qu'on le prétend dans les journaux, y avoir eu d'engagements entre les révoltés du Rhodope et les troupes Russes, puisque les montagnes indiquées comme siége de l'insurrection sont situées à plus de 50 kilom. en deçà des avant-postes Russes; quoiqu'il en soit, le Prince se mettait en tout ce qui dépendait de lui à la disposition de la Commission.

Après avoir remercié le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Impériale de la bonté avec laquelle il voulait bien aider la Commission par la communication de détails et d'appréciations qu'elle utiliserait, le Colonel Raab exprima au Prince, au nom de les collègues, les désirs émis dans la réunion du matin. Ces vœux furent agréés avec grande courtoisie, et le Prince répondit qu'il était tout disposé à accorder non-seulement un sauf-conduit, avec lequel il sera loisible aux délégués de circuler très-librement dans les localités occupés par l'armée Russe jusqu'aux avant-postes et même jusqu'aux limites où pénètrent les patrouilles Russes; mais encore toute escorte et toutes facilités qui paraîtraient nécessaires à la bonne et prompte réussite du mandat des Commissaires. Pour assurer l'exécution de ces ordres et éviter des retards et des malentendus, le Prince proposa de faire accompagner la Commission par un de ces employés civils, M. Youséfovitch.

Les Délégués se retirent en promettant au Prince de lui faire savoir l'itinéraire qu'ils choisiront, aussitôt qu'ils en auront décidé dans leur prochaine réunion.

Le Président de la Commission Européenne de Rhodope,
(Signé) RAAB, *Colonel.*

Inclosure 9 in No. 123.

Colonel de Raab to Count Zichy.

Gumuldjina, le 20 Juillet, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Commission a visité les réfugiés qui se trouvent à Gumuldjina, et qui sont réduits à la dernière misère. Des milliers de veuves et d'orphelins malades en constituent la plus grande partie, qui tous réclament un secours immédiat.

La construction de plusieurs hôpitaux et orphelinats dans le dit endroit a été reconnu strictement nécessaire; c'est pourquoi la Commission prie MM. les Ambassadeurs des Puissances Signataires d'engager la Sublime Porte à envoyer aux Commissaires la somme de 5,000 livres Turques pour le but sus-indiqué.

La Commission continue ses travaux. Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner connaissance du présent télégramme à MM. les Ambassadeurs.

No. 124.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 957.)

Therapia, July 30, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 917 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to forward translation of the declarations made by the representatives of the various districts of Northern Albania, at Prisrend, which accompanied Consul Blunt's despatch of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Declarations made by the Representatives of the various Districts of Northern Albania, at Prisrend.

(Traduction.)

Article 1. Le but de cette réunion est de déclarer que nous n'acceptons d'autre Gouvernement que celui de la Sublime Porte, de faire tous les sacrifices pour préserver l'intégrité du pays, et de procéder à l'exécution de ce qui est nécessaire à cet égard.

Art. 2. L'objet de nos désirs et de nos pensées étant celui de préserver les droits sacrés de notre auguste Souverain, dont la personne est à l'abri de toute responsabilité, tous ceux qui par leur conduite mettent ces droits en danger, et contribuent ainsi à vicier l'Administration de l'Etat, ainsi que ceux qui servent d'instrument à ces dernières, seront considérés comme ennemis de la nation, à moins qu'ils ne se corrigent. Quant à ceux qui font du mal à des habitants soumis et paisibles cette Association les expulsera du pays.

Art. 3. Cette Association admettra avec plaisir dans son sein les représentants des autres districts qui voudraient s'y joindre et les inscrira dans le registre de l'Association comme unis de l'Etat et de la nation.

Art. 4. De même que nous protégerons, en conformité de notre sainte loi, la vie, l'honneur, et la propriété de nos concitoyens non-Musulmans, comme s'il s'agissait de nous-mêmes, de même nous châtierons sévèrement ou légèrement, selon l'exigence du cas, ceux d'entre eux qui se révolteraient.

Art. 5. Tous les frais des troupes qui seraient envoyés par les différents districts seront payés en conformité des instructions spéciales. En outre les secours fournis du dehors contribueront en même temps à satisfaire le soldat.

Art. 6. L'état de la Péninsule des Balkans étant devant nos yeux, et il n'y a pas de ruse, il n'y a pas de moyen qui saurait nous induire à admettre une troupe étrangère dans notre pays. En outre non-seulement nous n'acceptons l'administration de la Bulgarie, pas même de nom, mais nous nous proposons d'inviter d'abord amicalement les Serbes à se retirer des pays dont il se sont emparés, et, s'ils ne le font pas, de les y forcer ensuite par les armes. Nous agirons de même avec le Monténégro.

Art. 7. L'attitude de nos frères et coreligionnaires de la Péninsule de Balkans, qui furent opprimés, les mettant tout naturellement dans le giron de cette Association, on n'épargnera rien pour leur porter secours selon les circonstances.

Art. 8. Les différentes branches de la direction de notre union qui siégeront respectivement dans les cazas, venant à rencontrer des difficultés, elles seront, sur leur avis, assistées par les cazas des alentours.

Art. 9. Celui qui dépasse les limites posées par cette Association, celui qui, Dieu garde, ferait de l'espionage, et celui qui dévierait en quoi que ce soit des ordres de son supérieur, sera puni sévèrement ou légèrement, selon le cas et la circonstance.

Art. 10. Ceux qui sont membres de cette Association, Musulmans ou non-Musulmans, ne sauraient, sans la permission de cette assemblée, se rendre soit en Serbie, soit au Monténégro à peine d'être traités d'espion.

Art. 11. Si quelqu'un de nous n'exécuterait pas convenablement la tâche dont il serait chargé, et commettrait un abus de confiance se laissant corrompre, et ne faisant pas un bon emploi des troupes qui lui seraient confiées, il sera exemplairement puni, et ses propriétés seront confisquées.

Art. 12. La collection et la direction des troupes seront faites en conformité des instructions qui seront rédigées plus tard.

Art. 13. L'Association aura soin d'assurer les moyens de communication pour l'expédition des dépêches et autres documents.

Art. 14. De même qu'il est naturel que l'autorité ne s'ingère pas dans les procédés de cette Association, celle-ci de son côté, à moins de force majeure, ne s'immixera dans l'administration interne de l'autorité.

Art. 15. Des copies de ce pacte seront communiquées à qui de droit.

Art. 16. Nous, les fondés-de-pouvoir des guerriers Guégès, Tosques (*sic*), et Bosniaques, qui dans leur enfance même n'ont eu d'autre jouet que les armes, et qui sont toujours prêts à verser leur sang pour leur pays, nous fixons en conformité de notre Convention la ville de Prisrend comme centre d'action, et de même qu'aujourd'hui nous concluons cette Convention, nous aurons soin de prévenir toute acte d'oppression et de tyrannie contre qui que ce soit; et cette Convention sera laissée en héritage à nos enfants et à nos petits enfants. Celui d'entre nous qui contreviendra tant soit peu à ce pacte d'union sera considéré comme un apostat, et méritera la malédiction de tout l'Islam; nous nous engageons, par conséquent, de nous conformer entièrement aux stipulations de ce pacte, que nous signons afin de le rendre exécutoire.

Le 17 Juin, 1878.

Copie du Procès-Verbal de la prestation de serment.

Conformément au pacte fait de commun accord, nous prêtons serment de ne pas nous soumettre à une autre autorité que celle de la Sublime Porte, de nous associer à tout préjudice qui résulterait pour quelqu'un d'entre nous dans l'exécution de notre pacte d'union de ne pas nous laisser guider par la passion dans nos procédés mutuels, de ne pas chercher notre profit dans le préjudice d'autrui, d'être toujours unis, et de ne pas manquer un instant de secourir efficacement celui d'entre nous qui recevrait une atteinte à son honneur.

En preuve de quoi nous avons signé et échangé le présent Procès-verbal.

Le $^{9}/_{18}$ *Juin*, 1878.

Suit un télégramme adressé alors aux Ambassades à Constantinople:—

"Les Soussignés déclarent qu'il n'y a pas de Slaves dans leur pays; qu'en tout cas ils y sont en grande majorité, et qu'ils ne se soumettront jamais à un autre Gouvernement que celui de la Porte, étant prêts, en cas contraire, de recourir aux armes pour maintenir leur indépendance."

(Suivent les signatures des fondés-de-pouvoir ci-dessus mentionnés.)

No. 125.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 958.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a petition from the inhabitants of the district of Kirk-Kilissa, asking for protection from the Russians and Bulgarians, who are plundering their houses and profaning their mosques.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 126.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 960. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 30, 1878.

THE French Ambassador had an audience of the Sultan yesterday, to take leave of His Majesty on his departure for France for a short absence connected with personal affairs. He tells me that he urged his Majesty to settle, without delay, the Bosnian and Greek questions in conformity with the decisions of the Congress. He said that he spoke to the Sultan "très-carrément" about Greece, giving His Majesty to understand that France would not view with indifference any attempt on the part of the Porte to resist the claims of that country to the rectification of her frontiers, which had been sanctioned by the Great Powers.

M. Fournier informs me that the Sultan, although exceedingly gracious and conciliatory in his language, did not seem inclined to yield on either of these questions, alleging as his reason the responsibility that he would incur in the face of his people if he were to surrender, without sufficient reason and without any equivalent return, so large a portion of his dominions. M. Fournier condemned very strongly what he termed the "obstinacy" of His Majesty, which, in his opinion, threatens to bring serious disasters upon himself and his country. My colleague has of late shown himself very hostile to the Sultan and his Government, expressing a doubt whether on his return to Turkey in six weeks he will find His Majesty still on the throne. As he uses such language to others, and even to the Russian Ambassador as well as to myself, it is no breach of personal confidence on my part to refer to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 127.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 961. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 31, 1878.

A WELL-KNOWN Greek gentleman of Constantinople, M. Zarifi, the Sultan's banker, has a scheme for the settlement of the Greek question, which he begs me to submit, very confidentially, to your Lordship. He would form, out of Greece and Turkey, an Empire similar to that of Austria-Hungary. Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia should, he suggests, be added to Greece, and should constitute the Greek Kingdom, under the Sultan, with its own institutions, but taking part in the Imperial affairs of Turkey-Greece, as Hungary does in those of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. For this purpose the King of Greece would have to abdicate, which M. Zarifi thinks he would do were he persuaded that it would be for the benefit of Greece and the Hellenic race.

M. Zarifi tells me that he has conceived this idea from a hint dropped to him by Safvet Pasha, and that he is convinced that he has sufficient influence with the Turks to induce them to accept it. He is also sanguine that if he went to Athens, and made his Hellenic countrymen understand the immense advantage that such an arrangement would be to the present and future of their race, they would eagerly accede to it.

I have no doubt that a far-seeing Greek like M. Zarifi, whose personal interests are more closely connected with Constantinople and the Turks than with Athens and Greece, would find in this scheme the only true solution of the Greek question—the ultimate restoration of the Byzantine Empire. If it were carried out it might lead, sooner or later, to something of the kind. But the Turks, who in some respects are not less far-seeing than the Greeks, might scarcely be found ready to agree to a political arrangement which would inevitably end by uniting the whole Hellenic race, and transferring to it the Ottoman power and rule in Turkey in Europe, and perhaps, ultimately, in Asia.

M. Zarifi's scheme, if practicable, would be the surest way of carrying out the "grand idea" which still occupies every Hellenic mind, although less is heard of it now than in former years. If a real union between Turkey and Greece is to be established, so that they may be an effective barrier against Russia and the Slavs, this would, perhaps, be the best way to bring it about.

M. Zarifi says that in order to carry out his scheme it would be necessary to have the moral support of England. He therefore wishes to know whether it receives the approval of Her Majesty's Government. If it does, he will set seriously to work, both in Constantinople and Athens, to promote it.

Your Lordship is well acquainted with the ability, ingenuity, and perseverance shown by the Greeks in promoting enterprises in which their interests and national feelings are concerned. If such a scheme as that proposed by M. Zarifi were taken up by them as the one best calculated, if put into execution, to satisfy their aspirations, and they were to receive any encouragement from England, they would no doubt exert all their energies in preparing the way for its accomplishment.

I told M. Zarifi that I would inform your Lordship of his scheme, but I refrained from expressing any opinion upon it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 128.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 962.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of four despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt at Larissa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report of this date from Colonel Synge upon the state of the districts of Carditza, Tricalla, and Allassona, which he has recently visited at my request for the purpose of inquiring if the promises of the Porte, as embodied in the amnesty, are carried out by the Turkish authorities.

I regret having to report that there is no marked improvement in the state of public affairs in this province, especially as regards the security of the rural districts, since the date of my last Reports to your Excellency; nor am I warranted by the course of events to anticipate any change in the situation so long as the present unsettled relations between Greece and Turkey are allowed to continue, and the consequent excitement and agitation for annexation to Greece are protracted among the Christian inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus.

The military are actively employed in pursuit of the numerous bands of robbers which are abroad, harassing and annoying the peaceable Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants; but no sooner is a band pursued, cut up, or dispersed in one district than another crops up in the next, and thus the troops are kept constantly on the move in small bodies, which not only harasses them, but proves injurious to their military discipline and efficiency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, July 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have visited the towns and districts of Carditza, Tricalla, and Allassona, and herewith forward the remarks relative to each place, having regard to the information you desired.

The district of Carditza contains a population of 23,774 Christians and 1,941 Mahommedans.

With the exception of the village of Castania, where forty-two out of forty-five families still remain absent, most of the villagers, being assured of protection by the neighbourhood and presence of troops, have returned and resumed their ordinary occupations, those who have no crops to harvest remaining over the frontier, where each individual is promised an allowance of 7 drachmas per month. Rendina and the villages in that neighbourhood, were still deserted at the time of my visit; but the Pasha in command at Carditza informed me that troops were on their way to occupy that portion of the district, and no doubt the villagers will then speedily return to their homes.

With the permission of the officer commanding the troops at Castania, I sent for some of the villagers from over the frontier and asked their reasons for not returning. They said first that they were afraid of brigands, then that they would be pressed for taxes, but finally said that, on the cession of Greece, their lands were divided by the boundary, and that they were in hopes that these lands would be returned to them. I said to them that the troops were sent for their special protection; that every assistance would be afforded to them; and that although now, when the weather was fine, and they were paid for doing nothing, it was all very well, in the winter their children would say, Why don't you give us bread? their stock would die for want of provision; then they would regret their crops left on the fields. They promised to talk with the other villagers, said they had suffered in 1854, again in 1866, and again this year; that when the wolf came the shepherd left them, and no wonder they were scattered. The authorities afford every facility and encouragement to the villagers to return. Every measure in the power of the troops is taken for their protection from brigands, but in the present state of affairs, and where many of the fields are far away from the villages and surrounded by forest, labour must be attended with some risk, and not within the power of military protection. The troops are posted in the best possible positions, but the nature of the country in the wild Agrapha

mountains is such as to render it difficult for regular troops to operate against scattered bands frequenting the most inaccessible fastnesses.

There are numerous bands in the Agrapha mountains, one numbering 150, under Zuloum and Delyanni, the latter a deserter from the Greek army. I was informed that many of these men are convicts who were released in Greece, and cannot return there.

The village of Cainlia, near Phourri, was recently requisitioned for 300*l.* Turkish by a band of Albanian brigands.

The Cattle Commission sitting at Carditza afford every assistance for the reclamation of lost live stock, but in the villages nearest the frontier the losses consisted principally in the cattle, sheep, and pigs killed and eaten by the insurgent bands.

The Return of the Cattle Commission at Carditza up to the present time is as follows. This Return does not include the cattle recovered by the villages named through Commissions in other districts of the province:—

Villages.	Cattle returned to Owners.	Cattle Missing.	Sheep and Goats Missing.
Matsuinga	684	925	Nil
Mavroukiri	111	260	Nil
Pirgos Matsuinga	222	110	Nil
Mahal Mahaggesi	2	50	Nil
Sofiules	308	665	Nil
Mavrómati	109	307	700
Mouzaki	29	62	782
Cappa	..	33	80
Mahoketchi	..	4	22
Luzzarini	..	..	202
	1,465	2,426	1,766

The state of the district of Trikalla is most deplorable from the number of brigands which infest it. On the 10th instant twelve zaptiehs stationed at Trikalla, joined by seven bad characters, went from that place to a village about two and a-half hours distant, named Megaraki, and seized two prisoners to hold to ransom. The villagers, however, with the assistance of a military patrol, fell upon them and captured the whole band, severely wounding two of them, brought them into Trikalla, and delivered them over to the authorities on the following day.

I was informed that since March last eighty zaptiehs have deserted from this station.

The town of Trikalla contains 1,156 Christian families, 939 Mussulman, and 171 Jewish; the district, 18,017 Christian families, inhabiting 280 villages.

Many of these villages are in a semi-state of mutiny; the lives of the Mussulman employés in them are unsafe, and most of them have withdrawn. The various rumours and press reports circulated amongst the people tend to nourish the state of disquietude. Guerilla bands passing through the "Khassia" portion of this district avowed their intention of firing the plain if their claims were not satisfied. Every effort to conciliate is made, and there were no complaints that the provisions of the amnesty were not carried out. The Cattle Commission of Trikalla have recovered 290 head of cattle and 2,300 sheep and goats, a portion of which, not finding rightful owners, has been handed over to the Bishop of Trikalla to keep until they can be restored.

Recently in the Aspropotamos district a band under one Soukos was pardoned, and several members of it enrolled to hunt out brigands. The majority of the brigands are from the villages, some furnishing three or four, others eight or ten, who threaten and extort from the more wealthy and peaceable, and rob all they can. From Trikalla I wished to take the direct road to Allassona, but the state of the country is such that the authorities did not wish me to pass through those parts not yet occupied by the troops.

At Tirnova I was informed that a few days previously a detachment of cavalry had had a severe encounter with a band of brigands, killing six of them and wounding others, but losing their Muluzim (Lieutenant) and an Onbashi (Corporal) killed. It is to be regretted that the soldiers, exasperated by the loss of their officer, cut off three of the heads, brought them into Tirnova, and treated them in a manner which cannot be too highly deprecated. I understand that the misdemeanants have been placed in irons.

The Allassona district is in much the same state as that of Trikalla, the fastnesses

of Mount Olympus giving shelter to numerous bands of brigands chiefly furnished by the villages of the district. Recently a large band under Christo Delvos and Gardsakeros visited the town of Vlacko-Livadia. Gardsakeros, furnished with an amnesty permit from Mr. Bizzo, of Catterina, with some forty of his band, entered the town without being seen by the military outpost; they were hospitably received and well-treated, under the supposition that they were amnestied insurgents. On leaving they begged that some of the inhabitants would accompany them, as they feared the troops would fire on them; they remained outside eating and drinking until a late hour; then selecting four prisoners from the wealthiest they retired to the mountains, demanding 4,000 Turkish liras ransom from the prisoners and 2,000 liras from the town. This band has also fourteen Mussulman villagers as prisoners, from whom they demand 600 liras ransom, and a Jew from Larissa, from whom they demand 1,500 liras. They released one prisoner from a village on Mount Olympus, called Kokinopolo, on payment of 200 liras. They also requisitioned the flock masters, whose sheep and goats out on the mountains are at their mercy, and therefore their demands have to be complied with. During my stay at Vlacko-Livadia a letter from the brigands was brought, stating that if the ransoms were not speedily forthcoming the ears and noses of the prisoners would be sent in.

I much fear that in the present state of the country it will be impossible to collect the tithe for the current year, as the lives of the officials sent for the purpose would not be safe without military protection. There are still numerous Guerilla bands who have not accepted the amnesty, and are awaiting the course of events.

The district of Allassona contains sixty-six villages, of which five are Turkish. In conclusion, I beg to state that I was furnished with every facility by the authorities, civil and military.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 22, 1878.

Sir,

THIS morning I addressed to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"It is reported that Turkish troops during contest on the 19th instant, with brigands in district of Allassona, killed one and wounded two peasants and four children, while these latter were flying with brigands. At my request authorities have sent mixed Commission with Colonel Synge to investigate this case, which Greeks here represent as being more serious."

The Commission, composed of Colonel Emin Bey and M. Doula Steriadi, a native Greek, left Larissa this afternoon for the district of Allassona, accompanied by Colonel Synge, who has kindly undertaken to watch and report to me its proceedings.

As the impression prevails among the leading Greeks here that the Turkish troops have misconducted themselves in this matter, and have carelessly exposed the inhabitants of the village of "Verdekoosha," the scene of the alleged incident, to a sacrifice of innocent lives, the Commander-in-chief has given strict orders to the Commission to inquire fully into all the circumstances, and to place under arrest any officers or soldiers who may have been guilty on the occasion, and send them to Larissa to be tried by court-martial.

I shall not fail to furnish your Excellency with a copy of Colonel Synge's Report as soon as I receive it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 128.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 24, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a telegram dated the 22nd instant, from the Caimakam of Volo to the Governor of Thessaly, Said Pasha; as well as a translation of his Excellency's answer thereto, relative to some hostile

demonstrations which have been manifested by people of the Greek community of Volo against the few Protestants in that place.

These telegrams were communicated to me yesterday evening by Said Pasha, and early this morning I telegraphed to Mr. Borrell, who is acting for the Vice-Consul there, that the Governor had directed the Caimakams to afford every protection to the Protestants, and that it was desirable he should act in concert with that officer to the same effect, and to inform me of the result.

Should the case so require, I shall proceed myself to Volo to take any further steps that may be necessary for the protection of the Protestants. As I understand that the missionaries at Volo belong to an American society, I would venture to suggest, in the absence of an American Consular Agent on the spot, that the telegrams which I have forwarded to your Excellency should be communicated to the United States' Legation at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 128.

The Kaïmakam of Volo to the Governor of Thessaly.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Volo, le 22 Juillet*, 1878.

UNE petite rixe a eu lieu hier entre les Protestants et les Grecs. Les Protestants avaient ici depuis quelque temps deux missionnaires.

Quelques indigènes avaient embrassés le Protestantisme; l'un de ces derniers, nommé Righa, s'étant déclaré contre "l'Orthodoxie," la maison où ils étaient rassemblés a été hier assaillie à coup de pierres et avec des insultes par des Grecs.

Le Chef de ces Protestants, nommé Michailidi, étant sorti de la maison pour en avertir l'autorité, plus de 300 Grecs l'ont entouré en le huant de tout côté. Comme ces cris allaient en augmentant, des soldats de police ainsi que des troupes arrivèrent sur les lieux et dispersèrent la foule. Le susdit Michailidi fut délivré et des sentinelles furent placées sur divers points. Mais à son retour du Conak, Michailidi fut en butte aux mêmes insultes. D'un autre côté on s'était aussi emparé du susnommé Righa, et on leur jetait à la face des citrons pourris et autres choses pareilles.

La foule s'était grossie par des Grecs au-dessus de cinq ans, et les cris de huée montaient jusqu'au ciel.

Quoique les Protestants ont été délivrés sans aucun accident, le rassemblement s'est prolongé jusqu'à deux heures.

Il est hors de doute que les Protestants ici se trouvent sous la protection de l'Angleterre et l'Amérique; et quoqu'il importe d'arrêter les fauteurs de ces tumultes et de les punir, on ne saurait s'empêcher de penser qu'il serait possible d'en saisir parmi tant de gens. Comme les Protestants ne sont composés ici que de cinq ou dix personnes, et comme les Grecs si disposent aujourd'hui à intenter procès; et comme, d'ailleurs, il serait peu loisible de heurter le sentiment d'une population toute entière, la proposition va être faite aux Protestants de partir d'ici. Cependant, dans la pensée qu'ils persisteront peut-être dans leur refus de partir, ce qui exaspérerait les Grecs; j'attends les ordres de votre Excellence en ce qui concerne l'éloignement des Protestants.

Inclosure 6 in No. 128.

The Governor of Thessaly to the Kaimakam of Volo.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Larissa, le 22 Juillet*, 1878.

CE serait agir contrairement à la dignité de l'autorité chargée de la protection générale que de proposer officiellement aux Protestants de s'éloigner du pays; et partant une telle proposition ne serait pas légitime.

Son Excellence le Commandant-en-chef à donné aux autorités militaires de Volo les ordres nécessaires pour prévenir le renouvellement de pareils actes audacieux de la part de la population.

En même temps avis en a été donné au vilayet dont les ordres vous seront communiqués.

Par conséquent, de concert avec l'autorité militaire, vous prendrez toutes les

mesures énérgiques dictées par la prudence pour la protection efficace des Protestants sous tous les rapports. Comme il se trouve à Volo beaucoup de personnes intelligentes qui ne manqueraient pas de reprouver de pareils faits désagréables, vous en appelerez auprès de vous quelques-uns des plus convenables, et vous découvrirez d'urgence, de manière à ne pas laisser à l'affaire prendre une grande proportion, les promoteurs de ces troubles, et vous me ferez savoir le résultat.

Inclosure 7 in No. 128.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, July 24*, 1878.

THIS morning I addressed to your Excellency the following telegram, in answer to the one dated yesterday, which I received from you relative to the destruction by fire of the crops in some other villages in Thessaly:—

"A considerable portion of crops and some vineyards of two Turkish villages, and of nine large farms belonging to Turkish owners, and rented on joint returns by Christians, one of which farms included eighteen houses of Sofades, were destroyed by fire last week in districts of Carditza and Pharsala. It is suspected, but not certain, that these conflagrations, which have caused equal loss to Turks and Christians, were acts of incendiaries, and two native Greek peasants have been apprehended with strong suspicions against them. Mr. Longworth being in that direction, I expect a Report from him on the subject."

As soon as I receive Mr. Longworth's Report I shall forward it to your Excellency, with any further information I may procure on the subject.

The authorities here suspect that incendiaries have been employed to fire the crops in question, which belong equally to Turks and Christians, as all the farms that have suffered from the late conflagrations are worked on the "Metayer" system, that is to say, half of the produce of some farms, and in others one-third of it, goes to the proprietors, and the remainder to the tenants, who are native Greeks.

The authorities have also received information that all the crops of Balabanli, a village in the sub-district of Domoco, occupied by Daghistanli emigrants, have been destroyed by the late conflagrations, and that four of these emigrants were found murdered in the vicinity of their village.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 129.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 963.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1878.

THE time and attention of the Porte have been almost exclusively occupied during the last week with the question of the Austrian occupation of Bosnia. Councils of Ministers have constantly been held on this subject at the Porte, or at the Palace, under the immediate presidence of the Sultan. His Majesty has felt the deepest interest in the matter. He entertains the conviction that to surrender to Austria two provinces, one of which is of great value to the Empire, both for its natural resources and for the men it affords for the finest regiments in the Turkish army, would expose him to the resentment of his people, and would place upon him a very heavy responsibility. This apprehension is increased by the belief that Austria offers him nothing which could be accepted by the nation as an equivalent for the great sacrifice that it is called upon to make. His Majesty would prefer not to entertain the proposal of the Austrian occupation upon any terms whatever, but to appeal to the European Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, stating that though the Porte is willing to abide by the decision of the Congress, it could not remain indifferent to the serious consequences to life and property which would ensue from the entry of Austrian troops into Bosnia.

The majority of the Council of Ministers is less opposed than His Majesty to an occupation by Austria of the province, on condition that it be of a temporary character, that its duration be fixed, and that the sovereignty of the Sultan be fully recognized by the retention in their offices of the greater part of the Turkish functionaries. It further desires that these conditions should be embodied in a formal Convention,

and that, in addition, Austria-Hungary should guarantee Turkey, by an official note, against future attack from Servia and Montenegro. To some of the demands of the Council Count Andrassy has given a categorical refusal, especially that referring to the duration of the occupation. He has, however, I understand, proposed an exchange of notes between the Austro-Hungarian Government and the Porte, by which the guarantee required by Turkey against Servian and Montenegrin aggression would, he maintains, be virtually given.

This does not appear to satisfy the Porte; and I am informed that the result of the deliberations of the Council held at Yeldiz the day before yesterday was to confirm in their general sense the instructions already sent to the Turkish Plenipotentiaries now at Vienna.

In the meanwhile, the Austro-Hungarian troops have crossed the Turkish frontiers into Bosnia, and great agitation is said to prevail throughout the province. According to the information received at the Porte the troops, which are almost exclusively composed of natives of Bosnia, have refused to obey their officers, and the authorities have taken possession of cannons, rifles, and ammunition, and, joining the population, Mussulman and Christian have marched against the Austro-Hungarian invading army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 130.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 964.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1878.

THE French Ambassador, whom I saw just before his departure for France yesterday, informed that he had had a second audience of the Sultan that morning, and that His Majesty had conferred upon him the Order of the "Osmanie" of the first class, with which he appeared to be much gratified. His Excellency said that his interview had been a very satisfactory one; that His Majesty had spoken of his great desire to introduce reforms into his Empire which would be acceptable to the public opinion of Europe, and had expressed his confidence in Safvet Pasha, who, M. Fournier said, was present. My colleague told me that he had encouraged His Majesty to persevere in his good intentions, and had particularly dwelt upon the bad effect produced in Turkey and in Europe, by a constant change of Ministers. I was glad to find that M. Fournier's language with respect to His Majesty was less hostile and bitter than it had been after his interview on Monday last.

I asked M. Fournier whether he had spoken to His Majesty on the subject of Bosnia and Greece. He replied that he had not; but that he had received instructions from his Government with regard to Greece which were of a very conciliatory character, and led him to hope that matters would be amicably settled between her and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 131.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 966.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy respecting outrages which have occurred at Gök Tépé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, July* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following occurrence:—

About the 25th June last 216 sheep and goats and one pair of buffaloes were stolen, or, rather, carried off openly, by Bulgarians from the owner, Tchoban Hussein, of the Mussulman village of Ahlatli Kebir, in the Caza of Bourgas.

Some ten days later Nicola Tchorbadji, of the neighbouring Bulgarian village of Gök Tépé, passed through Ahlatli, and told Tchoban Hussein that his sheep, &c., were all at Gök Tépé, and recommended him to come there under his (Nicola's) escort, where he would endeavour to have them restored to him.

On the faith of this promise Hussein and his son Hassan went to Gök Tépé, where they found their flocks: the Bulgarians, however, whilst admitting the ownership and that the sheep, &c., had been stolen, offered to give Hussein half of them only, on condition of his giving up all claim to the rest; on his refusing he was told that he would get nothing at all. He then applied to the same Nicola Tchorbadji (the head man of the village) for a Bulgarian to escort himself and his son back to their village, and a certain Kenusseh Nicola was told by Nicola Tchorbadji to go with them.

According to the account given by this Kenusseh Nicola, ten armed Bulgarians met him on his road to Ahlatli, and carried off Hussein and Hassan into the hills. From that time (about eleven days since) nothing has been heard or seen of the two Turks, who, it is only too probable, have been murdered in order to prevent them claiming their flock.

As the stolen sheep were all in the village of Gök Tépé, there can be little doubt that the Bulgarians of that village are responsible for the crime, of which *prima facie* evidence would point to Nicola Tchorbadji as the instigator.

In my despatch of the 10th July I mentioned the village of Ahlatli as being one of three (the others being Beleyren and Kara Abbabiler) which, alone of the Mussulmans, had remained in the Hasséki district, between Bourgas and Kirk-Kilissa, and I have now to confirm my statement as to all three having been plundered of all their live stock and most of their household goods by Bulgarians of the neighbourhood. In my despatch of the 4th July, I had the honour of sending to your Excellency a detailed account of the outrages committed at Kara Abbabiler, and I have to state that none of the twenty Bulgarians whose arrest and release within twenty-four hours I then reported have been in any way punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 132.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 78. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July* 29, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard—(1) acknowledging the receipt of telegrams concerning the trial and punishment of troops accused of outrages against Christians and the state of affairs at Rethymo and Candia; (2) describing the present intolerable position of Christians, no less than of Mussulmans, and the general desire for the good offices of England to be employed on behalf of the island; and (3) acknowledging the receipt of a confidential telegram from his Excellency the Ambassador, desiring to know the ideas of the Christian Cretans as to the future government of the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, July* 28, 1878.

IN my despatch of the 22nd instant I had the honour to state that I would telegraph again to your Excellency informing you that the only telegram received here about the punishment of the troops guilty of outrages against Christians was that mentioned in my telegram of the 20th instant; I accordingly telegraphed that night. On the morning of the 25th another telegram came from your Excellency, dated the 24th, stating that you could not understand how it was that the authorities had not received orders for the punishment of the troops, and that they had been repeated that day by the Grand Vizier.

In the course of the same day I again inquired of the Vali, who assured me that no orders had been received, and the next morning I telegraphed to your Excellency to that effect. A couple of hours after I went to see Costaki Pasha, who told me that he had received orders the night before from the Grand Vizier enjoining him to take steps for the punishment of the soldiers guilty of outrages on both men and women in Apokorona, as well as of those guilty of having spoiled the 250 Christian families in districts south of Candia. I lost no time in informing your Excellency of the arrival of these instructions, and the Vali has already addressed a letter to Ali Haidar Pasha calling on him to take immediate steps for bringing the guilty soldiers to justice, and I hope before long to be able to report that something has been done.

I was glad to learn from Costaki Pasha that the two companies of irregulars who had plundered the Christian villages in the Kazas of Rhizo and Monofatsi had been disbanded and brought to trial, and that he was expecting the ringleaders in Canea, where final sentences would be pronounced upon them. Salim Pasha, Commandant at Candia, had, by his Excellency's desire, gone to Rethymo, and had arrested forty of those who had been ravaging the country in that neighbourhood. The Consular Agent does not accuse them of destroying villages or cutting down trees, but of having stript the Valonia oaks of their valuable acorns, which form the chief revenue of five villages, and in so doing they had almost ruined the trees by snapping off the branches. Order has again been restored, but judging from past experience it is not likely to be permanent.

On the 26th instant I received a letter from the Provisional Government, informing me that while a party of peasants from the village where they have established their quarters were the day before bringing frozen snow down from the mountains, they were attacked by some Bashi-Bazouks, who killed one and wounded two. They also stated that they had received intelligence from the Chiefs in Apokorona that troops were being concentrated at the entrance of that district, and that as they were faithful to the engagements they made me, when last among them, to abstain from hostilities, they looked that similar faith should be kept by the enemy.

The receipt of this letter induced me to go and see Costaki Pasha, who told me that there might be some foundation for the apprehended attack, as only three days before the Commander-in-chief had telegraphed to him to send him at once the Chief of the Bashi-Bazouks, on the plea that there was a gathering of insurgents at a village in Apokorona (at a considerable distance from the frontier), and that the troops at his disposal were not sufficient. The Vali curtly refused the request, and he fears that the desire still exists among the military party to reopen hostilities, but it is certain that the insurgents have no idea of provoking an attack.

The killing and wounding of peasants bringing down snow from the mountains, as reported to me by the Provisional Government, is too true; and I regret to say that it was at my instance that they ventured into town. The Vali has arrested the Captain of Police, who was responsible for the safety of the road, and who was known to have an unfriendly feeling against the Christians. The widow, who is left with six young children, came to my office shortly afterwards; but this is but one among many hundreds of cases where the father has either been killed, or the family in other ways reduced to beggary. It is to be feared that the Christians will begin to retaliate on the Mussulmans if the offenders are not taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 132.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, July 28, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 22nd instant, I had the honour to describe to your Excellency the dire distress to which the Mussulman refugees in Canea and Rethymo are reduced, and to express the fear lest they should be driven to commit excesses on the defenceless Christian peasantry in the surrounding villages. There are no villages indeed in the vicinity of either town which have escaped the desolating effects of civil war, but it would be adding enormously to the sum of human misery if the circle of desolation was enlarged. The insurgents evince the greatest desire to terminate the present unhappy struggle, for if the Mussulman refugees have been called on to endure intolerable hardships, their own have scarcely been less severe. The interior is filled with a crowd of helpless fugitives from all the villages within the military cordon, and no better proof could be given of the inability of the regular troops to protect life and property than the fact that wherever they have shown themselves the villages have been plundered, not indeed in most instances by themselves, but by the irregulars acting with them. Even in the case of the 250 Christian families lately spoiled of their all by two companies of Bashi-Bazouks, a battalion of regular soldiers was in the neighbourhood, or they would not have ventured on the work of destruction without the sense of protection afforded by the presence of troops. It is, therefore, not without ground that I fear the possible consequences of a fresh outbreak, and the evil is distinctly traceable to the want of harmony which has always existed between the civil and military authorities.

The Christians are now impatient to return to their ruined cottages, to put them into some sort of repair before the winter sets in, and to be in time to collect their olives, which otherwise will be gathered by the Mussulmans before they come to maturity. As in the environs of Rethymo the Valonia oaks have been ruined by the Moslem peasants beating off the unripe acorns, so will it happen with the olive trees here and elsewhere, which, under such treatment, will yield short crops for some years to come.

Now that the insurgents are resigned to the necessity of submitting to Turkish rule, they with one consent turn their eyes to England, through whose mediation they hope that that rule will be made as tolerable as possible. Great irritation is felt by the people against the Members of the General Assembly for having rejected the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, which would have put an end to the miseries which now weigh upon them, and they refuse to believe that it is too late for those good offices to be used on their behalf. They remind me that on two occasions the whole island turned towards England entreating her to take them under her protection, and that it was only when their offers of allegiance were coldly refused that they turned their eyes towards Greece. They are now impatient for an answer to the petition, which, under the pressure of public opinion, the Provisional Government and General Assembly presented to this Consulate a week ago, a translation of which I had the honour to transmit to your Excellency by last post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 132.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, July 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour last night to receive the following telegram from your Excellency, marked "Very Confidential":—

"*July 28.*

"The conditions which were agreed to with the Provisional Government (last year?) (Congress?) were temporary in their nature, and applied only to the state of things existing then. Can you find out and inform me, without committing the Porte in any way, what views are entertained by the Cretan Christians with regard to the future government of Crete, and if they require any changes or modifications to be introduced into the Organic Law, and, if so, what? When I obtain this information

I may be able to make a further communication. At present you should endeavour, as a principal object, to put a stop to further bloodshed.

"The Vali has informed the Grand Vizier by telegraph that the old men and the women who were alleged to have been killed wantonly lost their lives in the engagement between the regular troops and the insurgents. His Highness has promised to proceed to the appointment of a Military Commission for the purpose of trying the soldiers and of punishing them if found guilty."

In accordance with the instructions contained in the first part of the above telegram, I shall do myself the honour in a very short time briefly to communicate to your Excellency what I believe to be the views of the moderate part of the Christian population as to the future government of the island. Meanwhile, I dispatched to your Excellency early this morning a telegram asking whether I might inform the Provisional Government that England will tender her good offices to the Porte with the object of preparing an equitable form of Government for Crete. I added that the Christians were growing desperate, and that an assurance of that kind would make them wait patiently.

I had just been informed that some of the chiefs were in favour of reopening hostilities from an idea that the Cretans had been abandoned by Europe. I do not believe that the wish is general, and it is certainly not shared by the Provisional Government.

I should rejoice to find that Costaki Pasha was right in his supposition, that the women and old men killed in Apokorona had lost their lives accidentally, and were not wantonly slaughtered. I mentioned in my Report on the subject that the killed and wounded seemed to have chiefly suffered from gunshot wounds, which may, in many cases, have been received while taking to flight. The witnesses of these scenes were scattered over so wide an extent of country, that I could not question all I could have wished, and those whom I examined naturally gave *ex parte* statements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 133.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 6, 1878.*

RUSSIAN General Bobrikoff, known from his missions in Bulgaria and Servia, has been here on his way to the Dobrudscha, stating that he is designated as Russian Boundary Commissioner. This Government extremely anxious about Russian doings among the Slav population of the Dobrudscha.

No. 134.—Nil.

No. 135.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 726.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 7, 1878.*

A DEPUTATION representing the Mussulmans of Mount Rhodope has come to Constantinople to request me to ask Her Majesty's Government to protect them from threatened attacks of Russians. I have told them that in consequence of representations of Her Majesty's Government the Emperor of Russia had promised that his troops should not attack them if they refrained from acts of hostility against the Russians. As the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia is about to be appointed, it appears to me very desirable that this promise should be kept, and that the state of things should be allowed to remain as it is for the present, hostilities being suspended on both sides. I have urged the deputation to return to Rhodope, and to advise Mussulman population to remain perfectly quiet until the Commission

decides upon their future. They have promised me to do so, and that the property belonging to Christians, and which has been abandoned by them, shall continue to be religiously respected.

No. 136.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1878.*

SOME of the chief Christians in the Herzegovina have offered to support Austrians with 6,000 men, but the proposal has been declined, as this Government is determined not to give their occupation the appearance of being undertaken for the benefit of any one party or denomination.

No. 137.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1878.*

I HAVE sent following telegram to Bosna-Serai in cypher D :—

"Austrian Consul-General has arrived at Mostar, and is returning to Bosna-Serai."

No. 138.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1878.*

I HAVE spoken to Count Andrassy about the Sultan's message to the Queen.

He says, and I quite agree with him, that it is neither possible nor desirable to arrest advance of Austrian troops. Effusion of blood would be best prevented by an arrangement about the occupation being come to between the two Governments, and the Sultan at once causing his subjects to be informed that the Austrians came not as enemies but as friends, pledged to protect all classes and creeds.

The Sultan has been wrongly informed upon the character of the resistance to the Austrians, for neither the respectable class of Mussulmans nor the Christians seem to take part in the movement. Its leader has proclaimed the law of the Koran as the only law in force.

No. 139.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 192. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1878.*

AT the desire of the Grand Vizier, Caratheodory Pasha has submitted, for the approval of the Porte, a project of Agreement to be made in concert with Austria, such as he believes Count Andrassy would accept.

At my suggestion, he also telegraphs to the Porte to urge it to issue a Proclamation or instructions to the effect that as the Governments of the Sultan and of the Emperor are about to enter into an arrangement according to the Berlin decisions, the Austrian troops are to be received as friends.

No. 140.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, M. de Giers tells me that the Russian Government have nominated Colonel Schepeloff, of the Staff, as Russian Commissioner under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and have instructed Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London to suggest to your Lordship that Commission should meet at Constantinople on the 13th September.

No. 141.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1878.*

I LEARN from M. de Giers that Turks have not yet begun to fulfil promise which they gave three days ago to surrender at once portions of Varna. Russians are anxious to retire from the neighbourhood of Constantinople and to return Turkish prisoners, but will not move till they have command of Varna and Shumla.

His Excellency expresses serious anxiety at disorders taking place in Bosnia on entry of Austrians, and fears that they are encouraged by Turkey, in hope of still bringing about a war and the collapse of the various arrangements agreed upon at Berlin.

No. 142.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 7, 1878.*

GERMAN Minister for Foreign Affairs requested me to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the fourth paragraph of the 62nd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and was anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government understood the words "la Commission Européenne" to refer to the Commission mentioned in Article XVIII, or whether they understood those words to mean a technically composed Commission of Delimitation. He stated his belief that the latter would be far more practical, but all the Powers might not interpret the phrase in the same sense.

No. 143.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 7, 1878.*

GERMAN Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that German Government are prepared to send a Commissioner at once to Constantinople, to assist according to Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, in elaborating the organization of Eastern Roumelia. He is already nominated as well as Consul, *ad hoc*, to assist Russian Commissioners in Bulgaria, under provisions of Article VI.

No. 144.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir R. Wood.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 42 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a paragraph from the French paper "La Liberté," relative to an offer made by England for the annexation of the Regency of Tunis to France.

With reference to this statement I have to inform you that no offer of the annexa-

tion of Tunis to France has ever been made by Her Majesty's Government to the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 145.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 402.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose you a copy of a despatch which was left with me by the French Ambassador on the 23rd ultimo.

It is written in the first instance in reply to a communication which I had the honour of addressing to M. Waddington at Berlin, and of which your Excellency at the time received a copy. But at the same time, M. Waddington records the general purport of conversations which took place between us after the receipt of that despatch, and which enabled him to appreciate more exactly the significance of the Convention with Turkey of the 4th June, which I had brought to his Excellency's knowledge.

M. Waddington expressed himself on those occasions in language which I remember with lively satisfaction, and which clearly indicated the friendly sentiments entertained towards England by the Government of which he is a member.

He fully recognized the special difficulties attending to the position in which Her Majesty's Government were placed by the failure of the Tripartite Treaty of the 15th April, 1856, and recognized the necessity which this circumstance imposed upon them of providing by their own action for the interests which the Treaty, if it had been practically operative, would have secured.

He was also fully sensible that our policy had been inspired by no projects of aggrandizement upon the shores of the Mediterranean, but purely by a solicitude for the vast interests which we possess in Asia, and which it is our duty to defend. At the same time, he was naturally anxious to receive from me assurances which should confirm the interpretation he had placed upon our action, and the inferences which he had drawn from the language of my letter.

These assurances I was very willing, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to renew. The tenour of the language I employed, though I could not answer for individual expressions, is accurately reproduced by M. Waddington in the despatch which I inclose.

The interests of France, as a great Catholic Power in the Lebanon, and in the holy places of Palestine, have always been scrupulously respected by this country.

We do not contemplate any departure from the policy which in this respect has been pursued in times past by the Government of the Queen. The efforts of Great Britain will be directed in the future, as they were at the Congress of Berlin, to securing the equal rights of men of all religions; but they are not under an obligation to undertake the special defence of any of the religious bodies which are to be found in Asiatic Turkey, still less to contest the guardianship of Catholic interests which France has made her peculiar province.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has also dwelt, both in his despatch and in his conversation with me, upon the question of Egypt. I am able to recognize with satisfaction that the views to which he gave expression were of a very friendly character; for it has always been the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to work cordially with that of France in promoting the development of Egyptian resources.

England has a special tie to Egypt, because it is the highway to her Eastern possessions; but the great economical and philanthropic objects which European diplomacy is pursuing in that country interest France and England in an equal degree. Neither Power desires to establish any territorial settlement in Egypt, or to interfere in any way with the dynasty of the Khedive at present established there under the suzerainty of the Sultan. Both desire the stability and permanence of his rule; at the same time that both are urging with earnestness the prosecution of those reforms which alone can rescue his people from misery, and his finance from its present condition of profound embarrassment. The English Agent has constantly been instructed that it is the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to work

heartily in co-operation with that of France, and this wish has influenced their policy sometimes even to the prejudice of other important considerations.

They were earnestly dissuaded by some of the authorities best acquainted with the circumstances of the Egyptian people from joining with the French Government in requiring that the coupon of last May should be paid in full; but they preferred to risk the evil consequences which were predicted, and appeared not improbable, rather than part company with France in the matter.

There appears to be no danger of any misunderstanding between the two Powers upon this question. The common object of both is that the Khedive's dynasty may endure, that his people may prosper, and that his debts may be paid. In their sincere co-operation, free on both sides from any ulterior designs of territorial acquisition, lies the only hope of enduring prosperity and progress for Egypt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 146.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 29, 1878.*

THERE is no doubt now that the Austrian Government are fully aware of the difficulties attending an occupation of Herzegovina, and more particularly that portion bordering on Montenegro and Southern Dalmatia, where a resistance is apprehended not only on the part of the Mussulman population, but also on that of the Orthodox Christians, who now appear to be making common cause with their late enemies.

A report reached Ragusa yesterday, that 3,000 Montenegrins, wearing the Herzegovin national dress, had crossed the frontier for the purpose of assisting the insurgents in opposing the entry of the Austrians.

I do not vouch for the correctness of the report; though it is quite possible that some Montenegrins, rather with the prospect of plunder than that of giving any material assistance, may have crossed the frontier into Herzegovina.

It is said that the Montenegrins are much irritated, and (to borrow an expression used by M. Durando on the subject) demoralized at what they consider an insignificant portion of teritory allotted to them by the Berlin Congress.

Their ire, appears, however, to be chiefly aimed at Austria, whom they accuse of having put obstacles in the way to their being allowed to retain what they had acquired during the late war.

These rumours have caused considerable alarm at Ragusa, and the neighbouring districts, where it is feared that those hostile to the projected Austrian occupation may any day cross the frontier and commit depredations, such as took place at the beginning of the century, when the Montenegrins pillaged and burnt every house in the district of Ragusa, of which hundreds are still standing roofless, as a testimony of what occurred seventy years ago.

On the 26th instant, after the departure of the troops, as reported in my despatch of the 27th, a number of Turks were observed loitering about the frontier, not two hours from Ragusa.

The alarm was at once given; and the whole garrison, consisting of two companies only, were at once despatched to the frontier: the town being guarded during their absence, by all the sailors that could be spared from the iron-clads now in harbour.

Though General Poppenheim entertains no fear of an attack, and rather ridicules the panic that took place at Ragusa, I have good authority for stating that he does not consider the town to be sufficiently garrisoned, and that he has telegraphed for more troops, and instructed the commanders of the iron-clads to remain for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 147.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 30, 1878.*

IN my despatch of yesterday's date I mentioned that General Poppenheim had considered it necessary to telegraph for more troops, as those left behind were not sufficient to inspire confidence among the inhabitants of the district of Ragusa, where it was fully believed that an attack, more or less for plunder, was contemplated by the insurgents and Mussulman population over the frontier.

Twelve hundred men have now arrived from Cattaro, who will remain here until relieved by a regiment from Trieste; consequently the panic with which the inhabitants were seized a few days since has now subsided.

The two rival parties, that is to say the Autonomists, who are in favour of the present state of things, and the Nationalists who entertain Slav proclivities, have, for some time past, been giving vent to their political feelings.

The former accuse the Nationalists of being in league with the insurgents over the frontier, and to have apprised them of the departure of the troops, and avail themselves of every opportunity to insult their political opponents, while the latter look upon an occupation as a death-blow to their aspirations of one day forming a Slav Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 148.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 56. Consular.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose Dr. Dickson's weekly report upon the public health of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, July 31, 1878.*

DR. MORDTMANN and Dr. Stekoulis gave the Board of Health yesterday a very favourable account of the public health of this capital. Typhus and small-pox have almost disappeared altogether. During the week, only four or five cases of the former appeared amongst the refugees at Scutari, and a few cases of the latter amongst the inhabitants of Yeni-Shehir, in Pera. The prevailing maladies are diarrhœa and ague; but the refugees are at present in a healthier condition than the rest of the population of Constantinople. Those stationed at Alem-dagh are also in good health, and they are now supplied with a better quality of bread than at first. This improvement in the health of the refugees, and the limited number of their sick, has caused the international and local Committees to close the hospitals of Pasha-batché and Feher-batché.

The number of the refugees in Stamboul is still reckoned at 50,000, but only 85 deaths have occurred among them during the past week. The number of the refugees along the Asiatic shore is rated at between 22,000 and 25,000, and the daily death-rate amongst them is 5 or 6. They are all now more regularly supplied with food and money; 12,000 of them have already left Constantinople by the Roumelian Railway, and about 200 continue to go away daily by that line. These departures would increase very much could the refugees be assured of receiving no harm on arrival at their homes. Many of them, however, have sold to ordinary passengers, at a reduced price, the railway-tickets given them gratuitously by the

Committees for their own conveyance. On the other hand, some refugees have actually gone to Cyprus at their own expense.

The Ottoman sanitary officers of Dédéagatch have now been authorized by the Russian authorities to resume their functions, which had been suspended, together with those of many other stations occupied by the Russian armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 149.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 618.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 7, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON being absent from Paris, and not likely to come back for some time, I have written to ask him what truth there may be in the statements, said to have been made at Athens by M. Fournier, respecting the protection of the Greek coast by the French squadron in case of an attack from Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 150.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 619.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which, in obedience to your Lordship's orders, I have inquired of M. Waddington whether the French Government is ready to appoint at once, in conformity with the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, a Commissioner to assist in settling the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Lord Lyons to M. Waddington.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, August 7, 1878.*

IT was provided by the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin that immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of that Treaty a European Commission should be formed to elaborate, in accord with the Ottoman Porte, the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

Her Majesty's Government are ready to send a Commissioner in conformity with this stipulation, and they have directed me to inquire of your Excellency whether the French Government is also prepared to nominate a Commissioner immediately.

I shall be very much obliged if your Excellency will enable me to convey to my Government the information which they ask, and I am happy to have this fresh opportunity of expressing the very high consideration with which I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 151.

Count Deym to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

Belgrave Square, le 7 Août, 1878.

LE Comte Deym a l'honneur de présenter ses compliments à son Excellence M. le Marquis de Salisbury et de lui envoyer dans l'annexe une copie du télégramme, dont il lui a communiqué le contenu ce matin, en le priant de vouloir bien la considérer comme strictement confidentielle.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Count Andrassy to Count Deym.

(Private and Confidential.)

LE Sultan nous a fait demander par l'entremise du Comte Zichy a arrêter la marche de nos troupes jusqu'à ce que la Porte serait arrivée à une entente avec nous et de laisser au Gouvernement Turc le temps de calmer l'effervescence des esprits dans les deux provinces.

Il nous a été mandé en même temps que le Sultan s'est adressé à la Reine Victoria avec prière de faire des démarches auprès de nous dans ce sens.

Immédiatement après le Congrès nous nous sommes empressés de faire les concessions les plus grandes afin de faciliter une entente avec la Porte; nous avons entre autres déclaré à la Porte que nous ne toucherions pas aux droits de souveraineté du Sultan pendant la durée de l'occupation, qui avait lieu en vertu de l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin, qui nous accordait le droit de l'occupation et de l'administration sans condition aucune, mais que pour lui rendre sa position moins difficile nous consentions à ce que le Gouvernement Turc déclare de sa part qu'il ne considérait l'occupation que comme provisoire. Nous avons en outre promis de maintenir à leur poste les employés Turcs qui se montraient capables et de ne destituer ni un juge ni un prêtre, de respecter leurs usages et coutumes, et leur religion, et de punir sévèrement tout ceux qui leur porteraient atteinte. Les sentiments d'amitié et l'esprit conciliatoire qui nous animent reportent clairement de notre Proclamation. Enfin, nous avons fait savoir à la Porte que nous étions disposés à un échange de notes, par lequel nous lui aurions assuré aide et protection contre une agression éventuelle du Monténégro ou de la Servie. En revanche, la Porte cherche des prétextes pour retarder la conclusion d'une entente et pour gagner du temps. Malgré les assurances réitérées de Saf'vet Pacha elle cherche sous main à exciter les habitants afin qu'ils protestent contre l'entrée de nos troupes et qu'ils s'y opposent. La duplicité de son langage et l'ambiguité de son attitude contribue beaucoup à augmenter l'anarchie qui règne dans les provinces. Les chases aisées nous adressent des instances pressées afin que nous accélérions la marche de nos troupes pour les sauver. Jusqu'ici nos troupes ont été partout reçus à bras ouverts—à Mostar où elles sont entrées sans résistance, et ailleurs. Ce ne sont que des bandes isolées, qui espèrent de l'anarchie de pouvoir commettre des brigandages avec impunité, qui ont tiré sur nos troupes, se tenant en embuscade.

A la suite de ce procédé nous avons chargé le Comte Zichy de déclarer au Sultan que nous ne pouvions pas déférer à son désir, mais, qu'au contraire, nous étions obligés à accélérer la marche de nos troupes afin de mettre fin le plus tôt possible à cette anarchie, mais que nous étions disposés maintenant comme avant à conclure un arrangement avec la Porte.

Carathéodory Effendi m'a avoué qu'il avait déconseillé la Porte à invoquer l'intervention des autres Puissances. Il dépend maintenant beaucoup de la manière dont l'appel adressé par le Sultan au Gouvernement Britannique sera accueilli par ce dernier. Vu la haute intelligence des hommes d'Etat Anglais, et considérant les témoignages d'amitié qu'il nous ont donnés, nous croyons pouvoir attendre du Cabinet Britannique qu'il voudra bien non-seulement refuser la demande qui lui a été adressé par la Porte, mais qu'il voudra même la dissuader de toute velléité de ce genre, lui faire comprendre tout le danger qu'il y aurait pour elle à persévérer dans cette attitude, et lui déclarer que l'Angleterre n'assumerait aucune responsabilité pour les suites qui pourraient en résulter, et dire, enfin, à la Porte qu'elle se prive par sa duplicité de l'ami dont elle aura le plus grand besoin dans l'avenir.

No. 152.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 728.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, to whom do the Albanians fear that Prisrend is to be ceded? It is not included, as far as I know, in the territories given to Servia, Montenegro, or Eastern Roumelia.

No. 153.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 728 A.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 7, 1878.*

I COMMUNICATED your Lordship's telegram of yesterday about Bosnia to Grand Vizier, who was in Council of Ministers, to whom it was submitted, as well as to the Sultan.

Report of Dragoman from Turkish Plenipotentiary at Vienna is unfavourable to an arrangement with Count Andrassy upon terms proposed by Turkey.

I hope to sign agreement about legislation in Cyprus to-morrow or next day. As Sultan's telegram to the Queen was sent *en clair*, it was generally known here, and may have thus reached Italian Government; but I will make inquiries into the matter.

Grand Vizier has promised that Commissioner for Roumelia shall be named at once. I am told very confidentially that Rustem Pasha will probably be chosen.

No. 154.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 729.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 8, 1878.*

RUSSIAN authorities at San Stefano are entering into contracts for ships to transport troops to Russia to the number, I am informed, of 60,000.

No. 155.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 8, 1878.*

M. RISTIC intends proclaiming the independence of Servia on the 22nd instant, and he appends to his Memorandum to the Congress amending the point respecting former disabilities of the Jews, and to the sanction by the Scuptchina of this alteration in the Article of the Constitution as a justification of this measure.

No. 156.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 8, 1878.*

PRIME Minister expressed to me yesterday his disappointment that on the 6th instant Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had not acted on the instructions sent to him by your Lordship in regard to rectification of Greek frontiers.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 157.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Athens, August 8, 1878.*

MR. WYNDHAM learnt yesterday from an excellent authority that he is perfectly satisfied with the proposal of Congress as regards rectification of the Greek frontier, and has been so from the first; that the complaint that Greece had been deceived by Her Majesty's Government does not meet with his approval and did not originate "here." Excellent authority added that if Janina were given to Greece he

could then completely follow Lord Beaconsfield's advice to be patient, and could remain so for a hundred years.

Nos. 158 and 159.—Nil.

No. 160.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878, 4·15 P.M.

COMMISSION referred to in Article II of the Treaty of Berlin is clearly a technical Commission of Delimitation, and has nothing to do with the European Commission of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 161.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878, 5·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 141 of yesterday, ask M. de Giers whether he thinks the 13th of September will be soon enough for the meeting of the Commission, in view of the fact that under the Treaty their work must be finished by the 3rd November.

No. 162.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878, 6·55 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 192 of yesterday, which has been repeated to your Excellency to-day, if from point of view of English policy you see no objection you should urge the Porte to issue Proclamation or instructions suggested, both in order to arrest unnecessary bloodshed and to avoid making enemy of Austria.

No. 163.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878, 7·25 P.M.

THE Queen has authorized First Class Star of India for Grand Vizier; you may announce it whenever and in whatever terms you think desirable.

No. 164.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Dering.

(No. 309. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th instant, in which you report that the German Minister for Foreign Affairs requested you to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the tenth paragraph of the 11nd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and was desirous of knowing whether Her Majesty's Government understood the words "La Commission Européenne" to refer to the Commission mentioned in Article XVIII, or whether they understood these words to mean a technical Commission of Delimitation, I have to state to you in reply that the Commission referred to in Article II of the Treaty of Berlin is clearly a technical Commission of Delimitation, composed of Experts, and has nothing to do with the European Commission of Eastern Roumelia under Article XVIII.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 936.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram from Sir H. Elliot, reporting that Carathcodory Pasha has, at the request of the Grand Vizier, submitted, for the approval of the Porte, a Project of Agreement to be made in concert with Austria which he believes would be acceptable to Count Andrassy; and that he has also, at Sir H. Elliot's suggestion, urged the Porte to issue a Proclamation or instructions to the effect that the Austrian troops are to be received as friends, as the Porte and the Austro-Hungarian Government are about to enter into an arrangement on the question of the occupation.

I have to state to your Excellency that, if you should see no objection from the point of view of English policy, you should urge the Porte to issue such a Proclamation or instructions, both in order to obviate unnecessary bloodshed, and to avoid provoking the hostility of Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 166.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 433.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 141 of yesterday's date, in which you report that the Russian Government have nominated Colonel Schepeloff as Russian Commissioner under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that they suggest the 13th September for the meeting of the Commission at Constantinople, I have to instruct you to inquire of M. de Giers whether he considers that that date will be soon enough to afford time for the completion of the labours of the Commission, which, according to the terms of the Treaty, must terminate on the 3rd November.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 167.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Lister.—(*Received August* 9.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August* 7, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter of the 23rd ultimo, from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Defence," reporting on the state of affairs in the Island of Crete.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Captain Cator to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"*Defence*," *Suda Port, July* 22, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING been in communication with the British Consul at this place, Mr. Thomas B. Sandwith, I have been informed by him of the following state of affairs in the Island of Crete, and have the honour to forward the same for your Lordship's information:—

2. Since it has become generally known here that the Congress has decided that Crete should remain under Turkish domination, great feeling of depression has taken hold of the Cretans. They now see how ill-advised they were to have rejected the mediation of England when two months ago she offered, in concert with the Porte, that a new form of Government should be framed for the island, in conformity with its legitimate demands and requirements.

3. The influence of Greece, which during six months has had the chiefs and the Provincial Government in her pay, brought about this result, for the people have all along had more confidence in England; but they had no voice, when once their leaders were in the pay of Greece, to make themselves heard. Immediately that it became known that the Congress had decided against the idea of union with Greece, there was a strong revulsion of feeling against that country, which Power is alone to blame for having induced the Provincial Government to reject the offer of mediation made by England.

4. It having become known that Cyprus has been made a British Colony, several leading Christians are anxious to get up a petition praying that Crete may have the same fate, and a similar feeling exists on the part of the Mussulmans.

5. A meeting of the Provincial Government and of the Greek Assembly of the Christians was held on the 20th instant, at a village three hours from here, when it was unanimously resolved that a petition be addressed to the British Government through their Consul, praying for the mediation of Her Majesty's Government with the Porte, to grant the island a new and improved form of Government. In other words, the offer made by England two months ago, and rejected a month later by the Cretans when they appealed to the Congress, is now earnestly solicited, and the feeling against Greece is said to be very strong.

No hostilities have occurred since those which took place at Apokorona on the 24th and 25th ultimo.

6. As I have already mentioned, petitions have been sent to England, and it is feared that should their request be unnoticed, both Christians and Mussulmans will listen to no mediation, but will wage an indiscriminate and revengeful war against each other, devastating the country by destroying the olive-trees, vineyards, and corn-fields, &c.

July 23, 1878.

Since the above was written, news has arrived from Rethymo that a disturbance had broken out there; the Mussulmans are harrying the country within the military cordon, uprooting vineyards, and cutting down trees belonging to the Christians, and Turkish troops have been sent to repress these disorders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RALPH P. CATOR, *Captain and Senior Officer.*

No. 168.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 731.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 8, 1878.

NO progress appears to have been made in the negotiations with Austria. No further fighting is reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Porte is preparing an elaborate Circular to the Powers respecting statements placed before the Congress by the Greek Plenipotentiaries, and appealing to Europe to save Turkey from being despoiled of further territory.

No. 169.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 732.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 9, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Plunkett's telegram of the 7th instant, transmitted to me by your Lordship, I am assured by the Porte that all the arrangements have been made for placing strong positions around Varna in the hands of the Russians. This was confirmed to me yesterday by the Russian Ambassador, who informed me that orders had already been given to the Russian troops to take possession of them.

No. 170.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Paris, August* 9, 1878.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me in a private letter that the French Ambassador at Constantinople had certainly no instructions which would warrant his using the language about protecting the Greek coasts, reported in Mr. Corbett's telegram of the 3rd instant.

No. 171.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 9, 1878.

OFFICIAL journal contains lengthy defence of Treaty of Berlin from Russian point of view. While enumerating advantages gained by Russia, it says Treaty is not final solution of Eastern question, but marks an important step gained, which it will be her duty to develop at a not distant future.

No. 172.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 9, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, M. de Giers says that he proposed date of 13th September for meeting of all the different Commissions under the Treaty of Berlin, as the various Russian Commissioners could hardly be ready sooner. He will, however, take orders of the Emperor to-morrow whether Commission on Eastern Roumelia might not meet on 1st September, as Russian Commis-

sioner is already down there, and will receive his instructions from Ambassador at Constantinople.

He begs me, however, to point out that he understands Article XVIII as giving the delay of three months from meeting of the Commission, and not from the date of the exchange of ratifications. He begs your Lordship will state whether you think his reading of the Article to be correct. M. Bobrikoff is named Russian member of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

No. 173.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 501.)

Foreign Office, August 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, herewith, copies of a despatch and its inclosures which I have received from Lord Odo Russell, on the subject of the omission, in Article LVIII, of the printed text of the Treaty of Berlin, of the word "près" in the second sentence of the third paragraph of that Article, which, as agreed upon during the suspended sitting of the 12th ultimo by the Plenipotentiaries of Russia, Turkey, and England, and afterwards accepted by the Congress, ran thus: "D'un point à l'ouest *près* du village de Karaougan," &c.

Your Excellency will perceive that Lord Odo Russell is endeavouring to obtain, through M. de Radowitz, an explanation from the printing office as to how the omission of the word "près" can have occurred; but I should be glad if your Excellency will request Prince Hohenlohe, as President of the "Rédaction Commission," to favour you with a letter stating what are his recollections as to the accepted version of the portion of Article LVIII now under discussion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 174.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August 10.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Sublime Porte, le 31 *Juillet*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint, pour votre information personnelle, copie d'un Rapport que son Excellence Photiades Bey vient de m'écrire pour me rendre compte de la ligne de conduite que la Grèce compte suivre en présence du vœu exprimé par le Congrès au sujet d'une rectification de frontières.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Photiades Bey to Safvet Pasha.

Athènes, le 16 *Juillet*, 1878.

FAISANT suite à mes précédents Rapports relatifs à l'impression produite sur le public en Grèce, et sur le Gouvernement Hellénique, par le vœu que le Congrès a cru devoir émettre au sujet d'une rectification de la frontière Turco-Grecque, je croirais mal remplir la tâche qui m'est confiée, si je ne rappelais pas à votre Altesse que le vœu en question a été considéré ici par tout le monde comme une sommation adressée à la Sublime Porte sous une forme qui, sans exclure le caractère et la force d'une injonction formelle, avait en vue de ménager, en apparence, les légitimes susceptibilités du Gouvernement Impérial.

Cette interprétation s'est d'autant plus accréditée parmi les Hellènes, que le vœu dont il s'agit a fait l'objet d'une clause expresse insérée dans le Traité même de Berlin. En effet, d'après les communications télégraphiques, l'Article LVI du dit Traité stipule que, dans le cas où l'entente ne serait pas établie entre la Turquie et la Grèce sur la rectification de la frontière conformément au vœu du Congrès, les Puissances offriraient de droit leur médiation aux parties contendantes.

Il ne m'appartient pas d'entrer dans des appréciations sur un fait que l'Aréopage de Berlin a voulu accomplir. Je me bornerai à mettre tout simplement sous les yeux de votre Altesse les effets que ce fait est appelé à produire en Grèce, et les conséquences qui en résulteront par rapport à nos provinces voisines de ce pays.

Fort de la décision prise par le Congrès, le Gouvernement Hellénique provoquera, soit directement, soit par l'entremise des Puissances Signataires du Traité, une entente avec la Sublime Porte pour régler la frontière d'après le tracé indiqué par le Congrès. En cas de refus ou d'une réponse évasive de la Sublime Porte, le dit Gouvernement est décidé à faire entrer en Epire et en Thessalie son armée de plus de 30,000 hommes, avec dix batteries de canons Krupp, en proclamant que cette mesure ne se propose aucun but d'agression ni d'hostilité contre la Turquie, mais qu'elle a été prise en conformité du vœu exprimé par le Congrès et pour en assurer la réalisation. Je crois d'autant plus à la mise à exécution de cette mesure qu'elle seule fournit à M. Commoundouros l'occasion de justifier les énormes dépenses qu'il a faites pour les préparatifs militaires, et d'éviter ainsi les attaques de l'Opposition auxquelles il risquerait, sans cela, de succomber.

On ne se fait pas d'illusion sur l'insuffisance de l'armée Hellénique, et sur son incapacité de tenir tête aux forces de l'Empire. Mais ce qui détermine le Gouvernement Hellénique à faire franchir la frontière à ses troupes, et à se jeter dans les aventures, c'est la certitude qu'il a de voir les côtes et les ports de la Grèce protégés contre toute attaque par la présence des flottes étrangères.

Il semble, en même temps, convaincu que les Puissances s'empresseront d'intervenir en faveur de la Grèce. Cette conviction est tellement générale ici, que la plupart du monde aimerait mieux réaliser la rectification de la frontière par une démonstration armée que par un arrangement à l'amiable. Ceux qui en pensent ainsi se flattent d'espérer qu'ils pourraient de cette manière se soustraire à l'indemnité pécuniaire qu'entraînerait l'acquisition du nouveau territoire, si elle s'effectuait au moyen de transactions diplomatiques et de gré à gré. Ils vont même jusqu'à s'imaginer qu'après une lutte avec nous, ils pourraient obtenir, à l'aide de l'intervention Européenne, une délimitation plus conforme à leurs aspirations.

Quelle que soit la Proclamation du Gouvernement Hellénique sur le but que son armée se proposerait en entrant dans nos provinces, il n'est pas permis de douter que son principal objectif sera de soulever les populations contre l'autorité souveraine. Par conséquent l'invasion devant être immédiatement repoussée par l'armée Impériale, la guerre se trouvera ainsi commencée entre la Turquie et la Grèce aussitôt le passage de la frontière par les troupes Helléniques.

Je le répète, ce n'est point sur ses propres forces que la Grèce compterait pour entreprendre une guerre contre la Turquie; les Hellènes savent très-bien qu'abandonnés à leurs ressources, ils finiraient par être écrasés. Mais ce qui les encourage à courir les chances d'une lutte si inégale, c'est leur conviction d'avoir pour eux l'opinion publique en Europe, et l'assistance effective des Puissances qui, d'après eux, ne manqueraient pas d'intervenir en leur faveur.

Pour conclure, je pense qu'il serait encore temps de prévenir les funestes conséquences de l'attitude que la Grèce semble décidée à observer, si les Puissances ayant intérêt à pacifier l'Orient et à consolider la paix générale, faisaient entendre à Athènes des conseils de sagesse et de modération.

C'est dans ce sens que je m'énonce autour de moi.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 175.

M. Commoundouros to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, August 10.)

(Télégraphique.)

Athènes, ce 3 *Août*, 1878.

NOUS apprenons que le Gouvernement Turc emploie toutes sortes de moyens pour intimider les habitants des provinces limitrophes, et les contraindre à signer des pétitions contre l'annexion. Les autorités locales encouragent même le brigandage, et font subir aux habitants toutes sortes d'avanies pour leur arracher de pareilles déclarations. Dans les localités dont les habitants résistent on redouble de rigueur à leur égard.

No. 176.

M. Coumoundouros to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, August 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, ce 5 Août*, 1878.

DANS les provinces de Margariti et Paramythia, en Epire, le brigandage, les massacres, et les assassinats se multiplient. En plein marché des prêtres sont égorgés. Les autorités montrent une indifférence ou plutôt elles encouragent le crime. Le mal va *crescendo*. Aucune sécurité pour la vie, l'honneur, et la fortune des Chrétiens.

No. 177.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 625. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, August 9*, 1878.

IN my despatch No. 618 of the day before yesterday, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that I had written to M. Waddington to ask him what truth there might be in statements said to have been made by M. Fournier at Athens, respecting the protection of the Greek coast by the French naval squadron, in case of an attack from Turkey.

I have this morning received, in answer to my inquiry, a private letter from M. Waddington, who is at Deauville, in which he informs me that he is not in a position there to give me any information about what M. Fournier may have said at Athens, but that he is quite sure that there has not been in the instructions sent to that Ambassador any allusion to a future course of action, this being a matter about which the French Government has not even deliberated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 178.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 733.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 9*, 1878.

I HAVE been unable to see Grand Vizier to-day as he has been with the Sultan, but I have communicated to him without loss of time [in ?] writing, the substance of your telegram of yesterday about Bosnia, and have urged the issue of a Proclamation.

The project of Agreement referred to by Sir Henry Elliot in his telegram of the 7th, as having been submitted by Caratheodori Pasha to the Porte, is under consideration of the Council of Ministers.

I will do my utmost to get Agreement about legislation in Cyprus signed to-morrow.

All formalities have been gone through, and it only remains to get document from Palace.

The communication about Greece referred to in my telegram No. 731 of yesterday has been sent.

Nos. 179 to 183.—Nil.

No. 184.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 10*, 1878, 7·10 P.M.

I HAVE asked Count Deym to urge Count Andrassy to make some offer to the Porte full enough to bring this Bosnian affair to a conclusion. What he ought to do is to give a formal written promise that, in case of an attack by Montenegro or Servia on Turkey, he will defend her by force of arms, and that he will do all in his power in case Greece attacks Turkey to prevent any other Great Power fighting on side of Greece.

I urged speedy and earnest effort to come to terms with Porte.

No. 185.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 10*, 1878, 7·15 P.M.

PORTE appears to me to run greatest risk of throwing Austria on other side when Greece attacks Porte. Porte's greatest danger is that, when Greece attacks, France may side with Greece. If Austria joins England in deprecating such assistance it will not be given; but France may not listen to England alone. Porte can gain nothing and may lose much by making Austria her enemy in complications which are impending.

No. 186.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 612. Most Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 10*, 1878.

I CANNOT refrain from observing that by its present conduct towards Austria, the Porte appears to me to be running the greatest risk of throwing that Power on the opposite side, if Greece should at any time determine upon attacking Turkey. In the contingency, which cannot be considered impossible, of such an attack, the greatest danger for the Porte would be that France might take the part of Greece and go to war with the Porte on her behalf. If Austria and England join in deprecating such a proceeding on the part of France, it will not be taken; but it is quite possible that France might refuse to listen to the advice of England alone.

The Sultan can gain nothing, and may on the contrary, lose much by making an enemy of Austria in the complications which are impending.

I have addressed a telegraphic message to your Excellency in the above sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 187.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 446.)
Foreign Office, August 10, 1878.

Sir,

IN the course of a conversation with the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, I requested him to urge Count Andrassy to bring some proposal before the Porte which should be full enough to put an end to the difficulties which have arisen in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In my opinion Count Andrassy should give the Porte a formal promise, in writing, that Austria will defend Turkey by force of arms in the event of Montenegro or Servia attacking her, and that, in case Greece should attack Turkey, he will exert himself to the utmost to prevent any other Great Power from joining in the attack.

I expressed to Count Deym my view of the importance, both to Austrian and general interests, of a speedy agreement between the two Governments on this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 188.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 433.)
Athens, August 3, 1878.

My Lord,

M. COUMOUNDOUROS, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me this morning that he had received a telegram from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, informing him that your Lordship had sent instructions to Sir Austen Layard to press the Porte to carry out the recommendation of the Berlin Congress in the matter of the frontiers of Greece in Thessaly and Epirus. His Excellency expressed the gratification this intelligence had caused to the Hellenic Government, and his conviction that, if Her Majesty's Government, whose influence at Constantinople was paramount, supported the Greek interest there, the realization of their wishes as regards an increase of territory could not fail to be brought about.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 189.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 434.)
Athens, August 3, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch No. 428, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, in which he expressed an opinion to the effect that the Greek Government were actuated by pacific feelings, and intended to await with patience the result of the negotiations now being carried on in respect to the rectification of the Greek frontier, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Coumoundouros told me to-day that the Government had given orders that the men of the reserves at present on active service should be allowed leave of absence in rotation for two months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 190.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 735.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 10, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that he telegraphed last night and again this morning to Hafiz Pasha, the Governor of Bosnia, to address a Proclamation to the population of that province in the sense suggested by Sir H. Elliot in his telegram of 7th instant transmitted to me by your Lordship.

I think there is a fair prospect of the Council of Ministers, who is to meet to-day, accepting the Convention proposed by Caratheodory.

No. 191.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 736.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 10, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER now thinks of sending Rustem Pasha to come to arrangement with Cretans and naming Caratheodory Pasha Turkish Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia.

No. 192.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 737.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 10, 1878.

RUSSIANS have occupied two principal positions commanding Varna chosen by themselves, but now demand surrender of citadel, contrary, Grand Vizier states, to the agreement come to. Porte is unwilling to give up the citadel until final arrangements for evacuation are made, principally on the ground that it will put Russians in possession of the town and expose Mussulman refugees and population to cruel treatment. Unfortunately this fear is shown by a despatch received yesterday from Consul Reade to be but too well founded.

Russians are pressing hard for Batoum, and hint [?] that until that place is in their hands they will not withdraw from San Stefano. Grand Vizier states to me that orders have been sent to Dervish lately to give Batoum up as soon arrangements can be made for the removal of the Turkish regular troops, but that he cannot answer for what the Lazes may do.

They [?] declare their determination to resist by force Russian occupation of the country.

No. 193.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 738.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 10, 1878.

GENERAL TODLEBEN, upon whom I called to-day, showed me a telegram which he had just received from the Emperor of Russia, dated this morning, and stating he was only waiting for details as to the occupation of Varna by his troops to give orders for the immediate withdrawal of his armies, and that he hoped that the British fleet would be withdrawn beyond the Dardanelles at the same time. His Imperial Majesty added that Prince Labanoff would be instructed to come to an understanding with me on this latter subject.

General Todleben told me that four of the Varna forts were now in the possession of Russian forces, and that he hoped to begin embarkation of his troops at San Stefano and three other places on the Sea of Marmora in about ten days.

He proposes that on the Russians' withdrawal Turks should take their place, and at once name civil and military functionaries, to whom Russians are to give over their authority. He himself will proceed to Adrianople and then through Aidos, where

he will complete the embarkation of the Russian army and return to Russia from Varna.

Will you instruct me what to say should the Russian Ambassador speak to me on the subject of the departure of the fleet?

No. 194.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 739.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 11, 1878.*

LAZ Petition received from Biliotti, asking for answer. They are 60,000 strong, and state that if Russians advance one step they will unfurl British flag and open fire upon them. They consider themselves under British protection.

No. 195.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 740.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 11, 1878.*

I HAVE received a letter from the Russian Ambassador informing me that orders have been sent by the Emperor of Russia to General Todleben for the embarkation and withdrawal of the Russian forces from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and that he had been instructed to acquaint me with this order in pursuance of the arrangement come to between the Imperial Government and that of Her Majesty's for the simultaneous retreat of the Russian army and the British fleet. Will you instruct me what to reply?

No. 196.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 11, 1878.*

COUNT CORTI returned yesterday.

Italian Government are prepared to send Commissioner to assist in elaborating organization of Eastern Roumelia. His Excellency asks where and when Commission is to meet.

No. 197.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 10, 1878.*

THE Consular body [?] have prepared an address to the Prince on the 22nd to the effect that they "congratulate His Highness on the occasion of the double feature of his anniversary and the independence of Servia which his people celebrate."

As Mr. Gould will not be here before the 23rd, may I ask your Lordship for instructions, and whether you would like me to be present.

No. 198.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 105.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 26, 1878.*

M. CATARGI, the Roumanian Agent, has informed me of a circular from his Government directing him to propose to the Servian Government that Roumania should send a Minister Plenipotentiary, and to endeavour to obtain the acceptance of this proposal.

I have heard, on the other hand, that during his late visit to Vienna M. Ristich proposed to Count Andrassy to send a Minister Resident.

Be this as it may, I have strong reason to believe that the question of expense of sending Missions abroad as a return compliment is one which will weigh heavily in the scale of M. Ristich's decision, though he may be strongly urged by the Prince to agree to such proposals as that just made by Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 199.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 26, 1878.*

THERE are many rumours afloat respecting the title which the now emancipated Prince of Servia wishes to assume, and it is not an insignificant fact that in the very numerous addresses which he has received from all parts of Old and New Servia he has been styled King in preference to all other denomination.

As I had the honour of informing your Lordship in my despatch No. 86 of the 10th ultimo, I do not believe, however, that for some time to come the Prince will seek another title, though he himself and his surroundings may ambition the honour, and I have since had opportunities to convince myself that should His Highness be so ill-advised as to assume a regal title, the greatest opposition will come from Austria and from Russia, the two countries he is most anxious at present to conciliate.

The proclamation by his army in 1876 was only a flash in General Tchernaieff's pan, which had not been previously warmed on Russian embers, as Mr. White's despatch No. 148 of the 20th September, 1876, can show, and there is no reason why the attempt should so soon be repeated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 200.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 27, 1878.*

JUST before its close the Skuptchina heard M. Ristich's account of the decisions of the Congress with regard to this country, and acquiesced in them.

The Skuptchina likewise approved the separate Convention with Austria, by which Servia binds itself to have a railway from Belgrade to Nisch, in connection with the Austrian lines, within three years, and to enter into a Commercial Treaty with Austria-Hungary.

Availing themselves of the privilege open to them by Article XXXIV of the Berlin Congress, the Skuptchina empowered the Government to take steps with a view of obtaining from the Powers the modification of the laws as to Consular jurisdiction and protection at present existing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 201.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 110. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July 29, 1878.*

THE restless General Fadeieff returned here from Montenegro yesterday, and called on me this afternoon.

Though his anti-Austrian sentiments are well known to your Lordship, the following remarks with which the General favoured me may on that very account not prove uninteresting.

General Fadeieff has brought back from his journey the double conviction that

the Austrian occupation, which has begun this day, will meet with serious opposition, and that resistance to Austrian rule in Bosnia will long continue.

In my despatches No. 81 of the 20th ultimo, and No. 101 of the 12th instant, I ventured to remark that such a contingency was not improbable, but although even the Austrians show signs of apprehension lest a collision may become unavoidable, I still believe, from the reassuring news which of late has reached this Consulate, that General Fadeieff's convictions are not likely to be realized, and that the prudence of the Austrian authorities will prevent a conflict.

According to the General, Bosnia is the stumbling-block, "la pierre d'achoppement," against which, sooner or later, the Austrian Monarchy must break.

To my remark that Russia had, I believe, been the first to offer Bosnia to Austria, the General smiled and observed that "of course it was not for the benefit of Austria only that the offer had been made."

According to him the task now undertaken by Austria "is one in which she can never succeed, as she is stopping the development of that South Slav Confederation which has become the hope and the aspiration of all and of each.

"By arrogating to herself the empire of the South Slavs, Austria threatens the very existence of the two newly-made Slav States of Servia and Montenegro, and cannot expect love from those who fear her sway, whether actual or prospective.

"And," added the General, "should Austria accept a truly Slav policy now that the Congress of Berlin has made her a Slav Power, how will the Magyars bear with the change? How will their jealousy see the increase of Slav power to the south of their territory? How, on the other hand, will the Slavs, in their increased numbers within the Austrian Empire, stand a rule which bears a foreign stamp?

"C'est un élément de disordre de plus," said General Fadeieff, "and if the resistance in Bosnia be prolonged, that will be another source of danger for Austria, who cannot maintain for long the enormous daily cost of her present mobilized army.

"In short," remarked the General, "the acquisition of Bosnia is no boon to Austria, while the fact itself may become such for the cause of the Slavs.

I gathered generally from the General's conversation, that if he was so convinced of a resistance to the Austrian occupation, he was not without his share in the incitement which would lead to it; that if difficulties should arise in the future to Austria in the management of her Slav provinces, she would not have much difficulty in tracing the General's hand in their creation, and, finally, that as an element of mischief to Austria, the General rejoiced in Bosnia being handed over to her Government.

As I pointed out at the outset of this despatch, these are only one-sided views, but I was not sorry to hear them so frankly expressed, while I wondered why they were thus given to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 202.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 30, 1878.

M. RISTICH having been unwell since his return from the Skuptchina, I have been unable to ascertain from him the exact terms of the Convention which he signed with Austria previous to the Congress of Berlin, but I have heard from my Austrian colleague that its two principal provisions are in respect to the railway, of which the Austrian Company of M. Hirsch is to have the working management, and to a Commercial Treaty with Austria-Hungary.

In my despatch No. 107 of the 27th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Skuptchina had sanctioned this Convention, which was the price of the staunch support given to Servia by Austria at the Congress.

A little reflection will show that Austria has by this Convention made the first step towards the eventual annexation of Servia to herself.

The railway line has to be constructed in the space of three years from Belgrade to Nisch, and, when completed, is to be handed over to the Austrian Company already mentioned, who will regulate its working and appoint its officers.

In a word, the greatest source of wealth, of development, and of strategical strength in Servia will, at the completion of the railway, revert to Austria.

The construction of the line is left to Servian or other initiative, though a certain

natural advantage is put forward in the fact that Baron Hirsch, having already two-thirds of the main line proposed, will construct the remaining third at less expense than any other; and it is probable, though not yet certain, that he will be also charged with the projected construction in question.

The Treaty of Commerce with Austria which it is proposed to make is a substitution for an originally proposed Customs Union of which Hungary would not hear, and very powerfully strengthens the prospects of the new railway.

Servia is, indeed, the market of all the unsaleable goods that are sent out of Austria, and becomes more and more the emporium of Austrian ware.

To make a Treaty of Commerce which will give commercial facilities for a still greater outlet of Austrian manufactured goods is clearly to place this country at the mercy of its powerful neighbour.

It is in such measures that the long-prepared policy of Austria with regard to the South Slav States reveals itself, and when placed in juxtaposition with the speculations and intrigues of Slav agitators, such as my preceding despatch recounts, show an earnest of eventualities which is instructive, and an ulterior ambition which reaches further even than actual Slav aspirations can look to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 203.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith another petition from inhabitants of Old Servia, desiring annexation to this country.

I cannot help the record of my impression that there is a good deal of official instigation in these lengthy petitions, which are addressed by telegraph to each Consulate here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Petition.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, through Her Majesty's Consul-General in Belgrade.

WE, the signatories, being representatives of the people of all communities in the district of Breznitza, have long been wishful to be freed of five centuries' serfdom and oppression.

With the help of the Most High, and the assistance of the victorious arms of our Servian brethen, under the wise direction of our beloved Prince Milan Obrenovich IV, the ally of the Emperor of all the Russias, the liberator of the Eastern Christians, we are to-day liberated from the infidels, but have been informed that we will be united with Bulgaria. To this day we have not been Bulgarians but true Servians, and on account of this we do not wish during our lives to become Bulgarians, and would rather be dead Servians, which we in reality are, so as to leave to our children and to posterity that which we, according to our faith and religion, hold as most sacred. In communicating this fact to your Majesty we most humbly wish to make it known that we also are a nation on which the eyes of your Majesty should be directed.

The King of Kings, our God in Heaven, must rejoice at seeing us placed under the rule of our through-many-centuries-beloved brethen the Servians. In the contrary event we would appeal to the whole world of enlightened civilized Europe, and would prove to it that we were entirely forgotten. We would take our wives and children and become that which we desired to be if we only live to do it, and will not permit them to stay there where we can expect nothing but pain, sorrow, misfortune, and despair.

I cannot disguise from your Lordship that the loss of the defile near Vrania, which Mehemet Ali so ardently contended for at the Congress, and which the Servians equally looked to as a strategical frontier, makes the position of affairs more critical in the sense that a disappointed hope may create a wish on the part of this country to be attacked in that very quarter where advantage is to be gained, where, according to M. Ristich, Servia is prepared to resist, and where, according to Prince Milan, a pursuit of the insurgents may be continued across the frontier limits, viz., within the defile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 207.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 4, 1878.*

WITH reference to the last paragraph in my despatch No. 108 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Ristich told me to-day that he was already in communication with the Austrian Government with a view to obtain from it the modification of the Capitulations.

His Excellency trusted that when he addressed Her Majesty's Government on the subject, he may hope to find the same readiness that they showed in 1873, when they conceded to Servia the point relating to municipal taxes to be levied on foreign subjects.

As your Lordship is aware, Russia has already abolished for its subjects the benefit of the Capitulations, and for all countries, excepting Austria, their maintenance is rather an obstacle to the proper administration of justice than otherwise.

The number of British residents is so small, that under no circumstances could even a necessary jury be packed from among them, should a legitimate case come before a Consular Court, nor do I see any immediate prospect of a greater number of Her Majesty's subjects being attracted to this country.

Still the Consular powers in certain cases are sufficient to quash the judgments of local Courts, and in this sense can the freedom of Servian justice be impeded by the Capitulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 208.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of another telegraphic petition from the inhabitants of Novo Selo, asking for incorporation with Servia.

I may add that M. Ristich informed me these numerous petitions constituted for him a somewhat awkward position, as he was aware that against the decisions of the Congress there was no appeal, while he believed the petitioners would, in the probable event of their prayer not being heard, leave their homes and migrate into Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Petition.

(Translation.)
To the Representative of Great Britain in Belgrade.

IT has been our hope through centuries to be liberated from Turkish rule, and to be once more united with Servia. When the hour struck for the realization of our greatest and sincerest desires, we all rose and joined the Servian army in order that we might also take our share in the sacrifices made on the altar of deliverance. We shed our blood with that of our Servian brethren upon the Servian land, and from the ashes of our sacrifices sprung that fine result, the liberation from the Turkish yoke.

The Turkish rule, of which the device was fire and sword, ceased to exist. For the fulfilment of our wish, the wish to be freed, we owe our best thanks to our brotherly Servian nation, as well as to the Czar, our liberator, and also to the Great Powers who took part in the Congress at Berlin, and graciously valued the rights of the oppressed Christian nations in the Balkan Peninsula, and prepared for them a better and more human existence, together with facilities for developing themselves. Our next wish, the wish to be united with Servia, was most unfortunately not provided for, as we were informed by the newspapers. According to the Treaty of Berlin, the whole Servian boundary from Kula Smilievа Chouka to the mouth of the Timok river into the Danube, now divides us from our Servian brethren in spite of our faithful and sincere declarations, by which we openly proclaimed our wish to be united with them. This went to our inmost heart. Unable to bear this grief with patience and resignation, in the first place the decisions cannot have been founded on the principle of nationalities, there being no Bulgarian element, but only Serbs and Roumanians, and in the second place, because to refuse our union with Servia is to abolish and annihilate our national pride, we most humbly ask you, Sir, to recommend this our declaration most warmly to the investigation of your most high Government, which is able to give entire satisfaction to the national sentiment of this country, which demand we most humbly present and recommend.

(The signatures follow.)

No. 209.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 5, 1878.*

THE Servian text of the Convention signed by Austria and Servia on the 20th June at Berlin, which was approved by the Skuptchina on the 26th ultimo, and the purport of which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 108 of the 27th ultimo, has been communicated to me confidentially, and I have the honour to inclose a translation of the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 209.

Treaty between Austro-Hungary and Servia; its Ratification by the Skuptchina.

(Translation.)

MILAN M. OBRENOVICH IV, by the grace of God and the will of the Servian nation, Prince of Servia.

Proposed by our Ministers in Council, considering that on the authority of the 1st Clause, section 8, of the Constitution, a Treaty was concluded in Berlin on the $\frac{8}{20}$th June, 1878, between Austro-Hungary and Servia, relating to the railroads, commerce, and the removing of the obstacles and cataracts of the Iron Gates of the Danube.

Considering that on the basis of the IInd Clause of the above-said Constitution, and in accordance with the last point of the IIIrd Clause of the said Treaty, this Treaty must be presented to the National Skuptchina for ratification.

ARTICLE I.

We authorize our Government to present to the National Skuptchina for ratification the Treaty concluded between Servia and Austria-Hungary, which has been translated in Servian from the French original, and contains the following:

We, the Signataries, agree in the name of our respective Governments as follows:—

1st. The Austro-Hungarian Government engage themselves, within the limit of three years, to connect their railway system with the Servian railway at Belgrade. On their part the Servian Government engage to construct, connect, and work in accordance with the decisions of the Congress the projected railway from Belgrade to Begova—Alexinatz on the one hand and that of Salonique—Mitrovitza on the other. They engage themselves besides to construct a branch line between Alexinatz and Nish, and to have it in working order within the same time.

Both Governments will jointly insure within three years the construction and the connection of these lines with the Bulgarian and Ottoman Railway.

The construction and working of these lines will be uniform, and the regulations relating to these must, as far as possible, correspond with these already in practice on the great Austro-Hungarian lines, as also on the lines the formerly so-called Roumelian railway.

For this purpose as soon as peace is concluded, a Special Commission, consisting of Austro-Hungarian, Servian, Turkish, and Bulgarian representatives, will be called in Vienna with a view to elaborate a Convention for the above-named Governments and the companies interested, so as to fulfil the above stipulations, and to superintend in the name of their respective Governments, within the limits of their responsibility, the working of all the above-named lines.

2nd. The Commercial Treaty between Austria-Hungary and Servia will be arranged in such manner as to facilitate the commerce and the sale of the manufactured goods of both countries, and to assist the uninterrupted development of intimate and lasting relations between the two countries. With reference to the special necessities of the frontier districts, the commerce on the frontiers will be subject to special regulations.

With this view Austria-Hungary and Servia engage mutually to conclude a Commercial Treaty which will answer the proposed intention.

At the same time the question of the desirableness of a Customs Union concluded between both countries will be considered.

Both parties engage to conclude a Customs Convention in some shape immediately after the ratification of peace.

The Delegates of both the Governments will meet for this object in Vienna within four months, or even earlier if possible.

3rd. Austria-Hungary engages to undertake the work respecting the regulation of both cataracts (Danube Iron Gates) near Orsova, to ask no financial help from Servia, but Servia engages to afford all facilities which Austria-Hungary may demand for the accomplishment of the work, and to permit the use of the Servian river bank as far as it is necessary for the purpose.

Servia is guaranteed those navigation rights through the Iron Gates which are enjoyed by other nations.

Both Governments engage, if it be necessary, to cause the present Convention to be ratified by their respective Legislatures if necessary.

Berlin, July $\frac{6}{18}$, 1878.

(Signed) RISTICH. (Signed) ANDRASSY.

ARTICLE II.

To give force of law to the special Treaty concluded by Servia with Austria, it must be presented beforehand to the Skuptchina.

ARTICLE III.

The present law will be in force from the day of the Prince's signature.

ARTICLE IV.

The law with respect to the construction of the railway from Belgrade to Alexinatz and farther to the frontier, dated 12th March, 1875 (Code of Law, 27th

Article, paragraph 54), remains in force as far as it is not changed by the present Convention.

Kragujevatz, July $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

President of the Skuptchina,
(Signed) D. MATICH.

(Signed) P. SAVICH, *Secretary.*

Assisted by Secret Commission:
(Signed) SIMA SEKULICH.
MILENKO PETROVICH.
KOSTA PEICH.
KOSTA RADOVANOVICH.
MLADEN MIKICH.
MILAN GLIGORIEVICH.

Ratification of the Prince in Kragujevatz, July $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.
(Signed) M. M. OBRENOVICH, *Prince.*

Minister of Justice,
(Signed) TEFREM GRUITCH.

Ministers:
(Signed) RISTICH.
T. GRUITCH.
MILOVANOVICH.
VASILIEVICH.
IOVANOVICH.
S. GRUITCH.

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 972.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of two despatches from Mr. Consul Reade, giving a very painful account of the cruel and revolting treatment experienced by the unfortunate Mussulman refugees, who had been induced to return to their homes upon the assurances of the Russian authorities that they should be protected from ill-treatment.

Mr. Reade informs me in a private letter that he has understated the case of these poor people, and that it is his conviction that the Russians and Bulgarians are determined to get rid of all the Mussulmans in Bulgaria. Your Lordship is aware that I have long shared that conviction. Mr. Reade adds that "the stories of cruelty and barbarism he has heard are a scandal to humanity."

There are a very large number of refugees and a considerable Mussulman population in the districts of Shumla and Varna which have hitherto remained under the Turkish rule. When those places are evacuated, they must either remain in the power of the Russians and Bulgarians, with what result Mr. Reade's despatch will enable your Lordship to judge; or they must leave the country and seek shelter and protection elsewhere. A large number of them would probably come to Constantinople, where their presence is most undesirable on every account. I do not anticipate that the stipulation in the Treaty of Berlin for religious toleration in Bulgaria will have the least effect. But it appears to me that some appeal might be made to the well-known feelings of justice and humanity of the Emperor of Russia to put an end to the terrible persecution and to the cruel ill-treatment to which the Mussulman populations are exposed in that part of Turkey in Europe in the occupation of his troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 211.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July 30, 1878.*

I RETURNED to this last evening from Rustchuk and Shumla, and it now becomes my painful duty to report to your Excellency conduct on the part of the Russians and Bulgars in this province towards the refugees at Shumla, and, indeed, the Mussulmans in general, as revolting and inhuman, as at utter variance with the views of the late Congress as expressed in several of the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin relating to Bulgaria, and also with the Convention lately concluded between the Sublime Porte and the Russian Ambassador as to the evacuation of Shumla and Varna.

In this Convention it was stipulated that on the arrival of the Turco-Russian Commision appointed to carry it out at Shumla, in the first place one fort was to be at once occupied by Russian troops—this was done. Then the refugees at Shumla were to be sent back to their homes under adequate protection, and with their arms; after which the evacuation was to be carried out.

The refugees, from their recent sad experience, were loth to move; but when General Stoltipine called the Chiefs and spoke to them in most assuring terms, they consented, and were sent off in batches, according to the direction of each company.

The following are the sickening details of what they suffered from their obedience to the Commission:—

The first troop left for Rasgrad, and on arriving at about a quarter of an hour's distance from Durankeui, the first Russian post, all the refugees without distinction or regard of age and sex, had to submit to a most indecent and repulsive search for arms by Russo-Bulgar employés, who groped with their hands amongst the clothes and persons of the women and girls in particular, and forced open their boxes and packages, scattering the effects all about and seizing any object of value they came across, and when they happened to find any arm, they cynically offered it to the owner for an insignificant sum, not allowing him, of course, to have it back.

This outrageous proceeding lasted the whole day.

In the morning they were marched to Durankeui, where they had to undergo a similar ordeal.

On the third day they were taken to the suburbs of Rasgrad, where, instead of men, Bulgar women and boys of 14 or 15 years of age actually stripped the poor half-dead women and girls almost naked, searching for arms all about their persons, notwithstanding the two previous disgusting examinations.

But these odious proceedings did not cease here.

The poor terror-stricken emigrants were than driven like herds of animals into the public slaughter-house (Salliane) of Rasgrad, where they were kept for several days exposed to the fearful odours and filth of such places, to the broiling sun, and to the tortures of hunger, for the authorities of Shumla could only afford them food for two days more than the time necessary to take them without halting to their homes.

In the slaughter-house the refugees were informed:—

1. That those who had taken part in the Servian or late war could not remain in the country.

2. All that were allowed to remain were inexorably required to produce Bulgar guarantees for their honesty and morality.

3. Those whose villages were in mountainous or wooded situations, under pretence of these being strategical positions, even if they produced the requisite garantees, were not to remain.

4. Those whose houses were occupied Bulgars, even with guarantees, must go.

5. All persons well off were told that they must leave the country, and were not informed of the reason of this cruel act of injustice.

I myself saw four well-known Rasgrad notables of unexceptionable character, who had been sent off without being told why. These men said to me that their only fault was that they were better off than most of their fellow-townsmen.

Then those of Rasgrad, who were told that they could remain, entered the town, but could not obtain possession of their houses.

Of the seven Mussulman quarters of Rasgrad five were occupied by Bulgars, the other two were allotted to Cossacks. Several found only the ruins of their houses, which had been destroyed or burnt. The house of Ahmed Agha Helvajyzade was actually burnt in his presence.

Such is only part of what was told me by Rasgrad and other refugees.

The same occurred to the emigrants of Eski-Djuma and Osman-Bazar, as related to me by several of them, and which was confirmed by others.

At Osman-Bazar the refugees had not only to submit to all this, but they were afterwards actually forced by the Bulgar Acting Kaimkam to sign a paper in Turkish, declaring that they were satisfied with his conduct.

I myself was present at the railway station at Rustchuk on Friday evening last, when another party arrived there from Shumla, who were at once searched for arms by the Russians and Bulgars, with much roughness and violence; but from large numbers of foreigners being present the search was not of quite so revolting a character as those which have been described, and which were effected where there were none who could possibly take the part of the poor refugees.

The natural consequence of all this brutality is that the remaining refugees in Shumla, still a very large number, are so terror-stricken that they now cannot be persuaded to move, and are imploring the Turkish Commissioners not to abandon them to a certain fate. Sirri Pasha addressed a very strong protest to General Stoltipine, the Russian Commissioner, and thus the matter stands for the present.

In the meantime the Russian forces are closing in round Shumla, and consequently the difficulties in the repatriation of the refugees will most certainly be increased.

From the foregoing as well as other conduct of the Russians and Bulgars, it appears to be very evident that their real object is to rid the country of all Mussulmans, and so clear is this that whilst I was leaving Rustchuk a fellow-traveller of mine was confidentially informed in a whisper by the Russian Colonel in charge of the station that all the troops had just received orders to be on the "qui vive," the General having reason to suspect a rising of the Mussulmans against the Russians, notwithstanding they well knew that there is not a single armed Mussulman in their part of the province. This was told to my fellow-traveller, but, as he said, it was intended for me, it was also to serve as an excuse for the disarming of the Mussulmans.

It is also very clear that the Russians and Bulgars are doing their utmost on this subject, and with the greatest speed possible, before the arrival here of the Committee, subject to Article VI of the Berlin Treaty, fearing no doubt, and it is to be hoped with reason, that this Commission will put a stop to their present outrageous conduct towards the Mussulmans.

It is, therefore, obviously highly desirable that this Commission should commence its operations as early as possible, so that the Mussulmans may obtain what has been accorded to them by Europe, viz., free possession of their rights and property, as well as civic and political equality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 211.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, August 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I continue to hear daily of such Russian and Bulgar treatment of Mussulmans that appear to place it beyond all doubt that their fixed intention is to drive all Mussulmans from the two Provinces of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

They also appear to be doing their utmost to get them all away before the International Commission arrives.

No Mussulman has been allowed to reap his crops, which have been taken by Bulgars, and half of which is to go to the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 974.)
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, and its inclosure, giving an account of the arrival of troops and the general state of affairs in the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 212.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, July 27, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have now the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the troops which arrived here last week are all that were destined for Epirus, viz., 12 battalions of infantry and 2 batteries of artillery (12 guns), in all 7,500 men, and they have been told off as follows:—Janina, 4 battalions; Arta, 4 battalions; Parga and Margaritti, 1 battalion; besides 1 battalion of Albanian Redifs from this garrison; and 3 battalions appear to have remained at Prevesa.

I have also the honour to inclose translation of Mr. Kypriotis' despatch of 20th instant, and which to a great extent bears out what I have already had the honour to report to your Excellency respecting the unsatisfactory state of the district of Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 212.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Janina, July 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Christian inhabitants of Conitza presented to all the Consulates a petition, giving a detailed account of the capture of Nicolao Bekiari, respecting whose capture I wrote to you in a previous letter. In their petition they make exception of the indifference shown by the Mussulmans who, although they occupied advantageous posts when the brigands entered the town, they remained simply spectators when they discovered that the assault was directed against a Christian. At the present moment their town is, as it were, in a state of siege, no Christian daring to visit his fields or his vineyards.

In the district of Paramithia the Mussulmans carry out in a more general way a system of bloodshed and violence against the Christians, more especially against the priests; amongst other things, a priest who had started for his village disappeared when outside the town, and his relatives have not been able to discover anything about him. His body has not been found anywhere. The Agas have shaken off the authority of the Government, and they themselves have assumed the administration of affairs, but in a corrupt and fanatical manner. Similar and worse deeds are committed in the districts which have a mixed population of Greeks and Albanians. As to the strictly speaking Greek districts, they are infested by bands of brigands composed of Greeks and Albanians, who of late oppress the inhabitants.

In the villages of Tsumerico, Pramati, and Melisurgó seven persons were carried off last week, and 700 lire are demanded for their ransom. The brigands demand 300 lire from the village of Serahon under threat of setting fire to the village. At Grebenitza, a village of Engori, three women were carried off, and a heavy ransom is demanded. In consequence of this state of affairs all the wealthy families who reside in the country are removing to Janina. But even in this town security is beginning to disappear, for a peasant who was returning to his village the other day was robbed, not very far from the market, and the evening before last, about 2 o'clock

(Turkish time), in the midst of the market, a Jew and a Christian only just managed to escape from the hands of soldiers, and it is said that the attempt to rob them was made by soldiers who pursued them. The Governor-General has called to Janina all the most influential Beys of Albania, and these Beys frequently hold secret meetings with the leading Mussulmans of our town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 975.)
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of two despatches from Mr. Reade, inclosing copies of correspondence with the Russian Governor-General of Varna on the subject of the recognition of foreign Consuls, and of my instructions to Mr. Reade as to the course to be pursued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 213.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, July 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour, at Rustchuk, to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 20th instant, and having been informed by the Consuls of Austria, France, and Italy that they had heard nothing whatever on the subject thereof, I saw no other way of obtaining the information required than to address a letter to the Governor of Rustchuk, in which I stated that the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs having on the 13th instant telegraphed orders to the Governor of Bulgaria to recognize foreign Consuls as officially accredited, I requested his Excellency to be good enough ("vouloir bien") to inform me if these orders had been received.

Having received the Governor's reply, I have further the honour to transmit to your Excellency copy thereof herewith inclosed.

The Austrian Consul further informed me that, although he had been on good unofficial terms with the Russian authorities, still various Austrian subjects have been victims of great injustice on the part of the Bulgar Tribunal, which has tried, and even imprisoned, several of them, whilst entirely ignoring the presence there of their Consul-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 213.

General Akimoff to Consul R. Reade.

Rustchuk, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Juillet. 1878.

LE Gouverneur du Sandjak de Rustchuk, en réponse à la note du Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique pour la Principauté Bulgare du $\frac{14}{26}$ Juillet courant, a l'honneur de l'informer que des instructions au sujet des Consuls Etrangers sont attendues de jour à l'autre de la part du Commissaire Imperial Russe, et que sitôt reçues elles ne manqueraient pas de leur être communiquées immédiatement.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signé) Général AKIMOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 213.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, August 4, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo reporting to your Excellency the reply I had received from the Governor of Rustchuk as to the recognition of

foreign Consuls, I have now the honour to transmit copy of a further communication I have received on the same subject, and from the same officer, General Akimoff, who informs me that he has been ordered by the Imperial Commissioner to enter into official relations with me.

Your Excellency will observe that neither in this nor in his former communication does the Governor make the slightest allusion to the telegraphic orders of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs alluded to in your Excellency's despatch to me, and that he states that the orders given to him are based solely on the Commissioner's cognizance of the re-establishment of the relations between Russia and the Porte.

The other day an accident occurred on the railway line which irritated a Russian General Guern so much that he, in an excited manner, demanded that Mr. Harrower, the Director of the railway, should at once discharge the engine-driver of the train, an Englishman named Alexander Harker, and that if his demand was not at once complied with he would have Harker incarcerated.

Mr. Harrower replied that as Harker had nothing whatever to do with the accident, it would be an act of injustice to discharge him, the more so as he is one of the best-conducted and cautious drivers in the service of the Company.

The General then reduced his demand to his suspension; but Mr. Harrower declined to be a party even to that, and said that he would be most happy to consent to an immediate investigation of the cause of the accident. In the meantime Harker has been sent down to Varna.

This now compels me to ask your Excellency what is to be done in case of such acts of injustice or violence.

The Russian Generals and Governors appear to be independent of each other, and are far more despotic than any Turks, for I am told that foreigners at Rustchuk have been summarily imprisoned by various authorities, and the Governor has declined to interfere. Indeed, my colleagues at Rustchuk have ever since their return found their position most humiliating and intolerable, and I was told that I had taken the best course by keeping away.

I am told that the Commissioner, General Dundakoff Korsakoff, is as an intemperate a man as General Guern.

When the International Commission, however, is established, they will, it is to be hoped, be more under control than they are at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 213.

General Akimoff to Consul R. Reade.

Rustchuk, le $\frac{21 \text{ Juillet}}{2 \text{ Août}}$, 1878.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, vu le rétablissement définitif des relations entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Porte Ottomane, qui met fin à la période transitoire, son Excellence M. le Commissaire Impérial vient de m'ordonner d'entrer en relations officielles avec vous.

En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, j'aime à croire, M. le Consul, que ces relations ne feront que contribuer au succès de la tâche qui nous est dévolue.

J'ai en même temps l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me communiquer une liste des sujets du Gouvernement que vous représentez, domiciliés dans le rayon de votre juridiction Consulaire.

Veuillez, &c.
Gouverneur de Rustchuk, Général-Major,
(Signé) AKIMOFF.

Directeur de la Chancellerie du Gouvernement de Rustchuk,
(Signé) Comte Koutouzoff.

Inclosure 5 in No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul R. Reade.

Therapia, August 5, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch of the 4th instant on the subject of the recognition of foreign Consuls by the Russian Governor, I have to instruct you to act as though you were properly accredited, and, in the event of acts of violence being committed by the Russian officials, to protest against the same formally, and to report the matter to the Marquis of Salisbury through me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 12.*)

(No. 970.)

Therapia, August 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of two despatches from Mr. Reade, giving account of Russian military movements at Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 214.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, July 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Russians are continuing to bring up the Danube in large lighters, and to land at Rustchuk, immense quantities of ammunition of war; indeed, several persons at Rustchuk who have been there from the commencement of the war said that never has the arrival of war material been on such a scale as it has been during the past six weeks.

The lighters are discharged by soldiers from daylight till dark, and daily. The shot and shells are placed on iron trucks, which are towed up to the plain by road steam-engines, and there transferred to carts, which leave Rustchuk in different directions.

The park of artillery above the station consists of, as far as I could calculate, from 700 to 800 guns—siege and field-pieces.

The motive of the Russians in this would appear to be one of the following:—

Either they do not intend to leave Bulgaria within the time laid down by the Congress;

Or that they fear hostilities may ensue from the Austrian occupation of Bosnia in which they may take part;

Or that they intend to leave deposits in Bulgaria for future eventualities contingent on the fortifying of the Balkans by the Turks.

Very few people here who are at all competent to form an opinion for a moment believe that the Russians will quit Bulgaria within the period laid down by the Congress.

They are now steadily advancing so as to surround Shumla and Varna, and are already in positions they have no right to occupy until both places are evacuated.

One of the forts at Shumla (Yildis Tabia) was at once given up to them by the Turks conformably to the Evacuation Convention, and where there are now three regiments of infantry, two of cavalry, two batteries of field-pieces, and six siege-guns.

On Monday last, the 29th, I myself saw a body of from 500 to 600 Cossacks on a rising ground about 500 yards from the entrance of the town, and commanding most of it. Six guns were in position bearing on the town.

Inside the town itself I left, as reported to General Rechid Pasha, about 300 officers and privates establishing quarters and depôts for the force that is to occupy Shumla on the departure of the Turks, and which is to come from Rasgrad and Rustchuk.

The Russians have also advanced in the Varna direction further than the Convention allows them.

Yesterday General Fazli Pasha informed me that, fearing complications in case of their further advance, he was sending out ten battalions, under Nubad Pasha, to Kozludja, Pravady, and other points, to summon the Russians to retire, and to keep them at a distance from Varna until it be evacuated.

I was informed at Rustchuk by the Austrian Consul that his agent at Silistria had reported to him that preparations had been made there for the embarkation for Russia of the 12th Army Corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing a Russian war-steamer has entered the harbour, apparently laden with troops. I have too little time left before the closing of the post to enable me to ascertain anything certain.

R. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 214.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, August 4, 1878.

Sir,

I LAST night received a letter from Rustchuk, informing me that the Russians are daily continuing to display the greatest activity and haste in landing ammunition of war at Rustchuk, and that the quantity now in the province must be enormous.

Notwitstanding the Evacuation Convention the Russian troops are advancing on Shumla and Varna. They are already close to Shumla and within a few hours of Varna, and although the natives are very dejected and irritated no disturbance has as yet occurred.

His Excellency Mehemet Ali Pasha arrived here last night from Vienna viâ Rustchuk and leaves this evening for Constantinople by the Ottoman Government steamer "Izzedin."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 978. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch, marked Confidential, from Mr. Reade, reporting that instructions are being given by the Russians to the Bulgarians as to their future policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 215.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Varna, August 1, 1878.

Sir,

WHEN lately at Rustchuk I received an important confidential communication from a very reliable quarter, which I venture to forward to your Excellency.

My informant has heard that the Russians are carefully and secretly instructing the Bulgars of this province and Eastern Roumelia as to the line of policy they wish and require them to follow henceforward.

My informant said that the thing is so secretly done that he has not been able to obtain any details thereof, but he told me that he still hopes to be able to learn something, and, if so, he will communicate with me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 216.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 979. Secret.)

Therapia, August 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I FOUND the Sultan yesterday, when I had the honour of dining with His Majesty, very much depressed in spirits owing to the news he had just received from Bosnia and Herzegovina. His Majesty showed me a telegram from the Vali of the former province, stating that the inhabitants of Mostar had risen against their Governor, Mustafa Pasha, who had endeavoured to prevent them taking up arms against the Austrians, and had murdered him and the Mufti. The Vali stated that there was the greatest excitement and agitation in the provinces, that the populations, Mussulmans, Christians, and Jews, were marching to resist the Austrians with the greatest enthusiasm, that the greater part of the troops had joined them, that the Servians and Montenegrins were urging them on, and promising to assist them, and that the authorities could no longer exercise any control over the people, who were resolutely determined to oppose, at any cost, the occupation and annexation of their country by Austria.

The Sultan spoke in a very desponding tone of the state of affairs, observing that he had no sooner escaped from one trouble than another befell him. It was an evil day, His Majesty said, when he came to the Throne. He had not enjoyed one hour's peace, not a night's rest. Were it not, His Majesty added, that his religion forbade him to entertain such thoughts, he would wish to get rid of life, which was a burden to him.

His Majesty went on to say that, whilst ready to accept the decision of the Congress that Austria should occupy and administer Bosnia and Herzegovina, he could not hand over those two important provinces to her except upon conditions which would justify the sacrifice in the eyes of his people, and would reconcile their inhabitants to their transfer to the rule of a foreign Power. But he had failed in obtaining from the Austrian Government such terms as he was entitled to require in the interest of himself and of his subjects. He had willingly consented to give over Cyprus to England. Her Majesty's Government had shown every consideration for him, and for the feelings of the Turkish people, and the occupation of the island, so far from being displeasing to its inhabitants and to the country in general, had been received by them with satisfaction. If Austria had acted towards him as Her Majesty's Government had done, if she had only enabled him to show to his people that they had obtained something in return for the cession of such important territory, he would have had but little difficulty in complying with the decision of the Congress, but the manner in which she had carried out her long-prepared schemes for the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had caused the greatest irritation in those provinces against her. He had no means of forcing them to allow an Austrian occupation. Could he be called upon to resort to arms to compel his own subjects to accept a foreign rule which was distasteful to them?

His Majesty said that he had several Bosnians amongst his attendants and that there were many Bosnian troops in the capital. He was able himself to judge by their demeanour of the repugnance they felt at being transferred to Austria. Their language had naturally considerable influence upon public opinion, and had increased the general feeling of indignation and resentment against Austria, especially amongst the Mussulmans.

After dinner the Sultan renewed the subject in a confidential conversation. He showed me a further telegram that he had just received from the Vali of Bosnia, stating that the excitement in the provinces was increasing, that blood had already been shed, and that the population and the troops that had joined them were taking possession of the passes in order to defend them against the Austrian forces. His Majesty said that he desired to telegraph to the Queen to ask her to intercede with the Emperor of Austria to prevent the advance of his troops, and wished to consult me on the subject. I replied that Her Majesty, as a Constitutional Sovereign, would act upon the advice of her Ministers. His Majesty, I said, was aware that Her Majesty's Government had expressed their opinion, through me, that it would be desirable for Turkey to lose no time in coming to an arrangement with Austria, and not to endeavour to exact terms from her which she could not accept. I had been instructed to urge upon him the importance of acceding to the conditions last proposed by Count Andrassy, which Her Majesty's Government considered fair and reasonable, and I

could not do otherwise than advise His Majesty most strongly to accept them, and thus to prevent a conflict which might lead to serious consequences to his Empire.

The Sultan answered that he was aware that the Queen could not modify or change the decision of the Congress, and he had no intention of asking Her Majesty to do so, but he wished to appeal to her well-known sentiments of humanity, and to her feelings as a woman, to prevent the great effusion of blood which must inevitably ensue if the Austrian troops were to continue their advance. Her Majesty had already given him a signal proof of her friendship, and had rendered the greatest possible service to Turkey by writing herself to the Emperor of Russia when last year the Russian army was threatening Constantinople. It was to Her Majesty that he owed the preservation of his capital, and perhaps of his throne. All that he desired now was that the progress of the Austrian forces should be arrested until he could find some means of coming to an arrangement with Austria that would enable her to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina without further bloodshed.

His Majesty expressed his intention of telegraphing to the Queen on the following morning, and requested me so to inform your Lordship at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 217.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 980.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, giving an account of the state of the Jewish community of Bourgas.

I have, &c
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
Sir,
Bourgas, August 1, 1878.

IN my note of this morning I alluded to the Jewish refugees who came here on Saturday last. I have just now been asked to look at the quarters assigned them.

These people came here, as I am informed (and I believe quite correctly informed), with an order from General Todleben, according to which the local Government here was bound to find them rations and means of transport to their homes.

The Government here refuses them carts to carry them to their towns, and offers as rations unground Indian corn, two years old and mouldy, mixed with rye and oats, also unground. This the Jews have refused, not knowing how to cook it, or rather having neither kitchen nor utensils to utilize it, and as the Israelite "Allianze" gave a small sum to each family on its leaving Constantinople, they are now living on that, but it cannot go far. They have telegraphed to the "Allianze," but I very much doubt if their telegram has been sent or will be sent. I have been round two of the houses where they are billeted.

First house—		Persons.	Second house—		Persons.
1st room, 15 ft. by 12 ft.	.. ..	20	1st room, 12 ft. by 12 ft.	.. ..	16
2nd " " "	.. ..	25	2nd " 6 " 9	.. ..	8
3rd " " "	.. ..	22	3rd " 8 " 10	.. ..	12
4th " " "	.. ..	14	4th " 8 " 9	.. ..	20
Platform (open) ..	.. ..	25	5th " 8 " 8	.. ..	18
		116			78

The steamer is leaving, and I believe the Jews have written to the "Allianze" for help; unless their charitable society sends them money, I do not see how they are to leave, for they are really poor, and if they remain, I fear that, crowded as they are, fever will break out.

I would have made this the subject of a Report, but I am obliged to write in a hurry in order to catch our post, still all that I have related may be depended upon, and I will take great care not to exaggerate, but rather to err on the other side.

No. 218.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 981. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

THE Duke of Sutherland has requested me to inform the Grand Vizier that he is the President of an Association for the construction of a railway from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf, and to obtain from his Highness a promise that his scheme, of which he has sent me the general outline, should have the preference over any other that may be submitted to the Porte on equal terms. His Highness, to whom I communicated the Duke's message and scheme, is desirous of entering into an arrangement with an English Company under the presidence of a nobleman who has shown great interest in Turkey, and who did so much for her during the late war. His Highness mentioned the proposal of the Duke to the Sultan, who spoke to me on the subject, expressing his wish that it might be carried out, and begging me to invite his Grace to Constantinople in his name and to be his guest.

I have informed the Duke of Sutherland that there is every desire on the part of the Porte to treat with the Association of which he is the President, and I have communicated to his Grace the Sultan's message. But I have suggested to him at the same time that he should send a proper Agent to represent the Company at Constantinople, as I cannot properly do more than I have done in bringing to the notice of the Grand Vizier the desire of his Grace to obtain a concession from the Turkish Government for the proposed railway, and as I have no instructions from your Lordship to give his proposal my official or other support.

Several schemes for a similar railway have been submitted to the Porte by various European capitalists and speculators, and amongst them M. Outray, whose name must be known to your Lordship as connected with political and financial matters in the East. I understand that this gentleman is endeavouring to persuade Safvet Pasha that the railway proposed by the Duke of Sutherland is connected with a plan on the part of England to establish a predominant interest in the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan with a view to their ultimate annexation, and that it would be extremely dangerous to allow such an undertaking to fall into English hands. He has suggested to his Highness that to defeat the designs of England the construction of the railway should be confided to Frenchmen, and be placed under the protection of France. I do not think that M. Outray's arguments have, as yet, made much impression upon the Grand Vizier.

Should your Lordship be of opinion that I should give such support as I can to the Duke of Sutherland's proposal, I shall do my best to promote its success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 219.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 983.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 5, 1878.

SAFVET PASHA informed me this morning that the Porte would have no difficulty in accepting the conditions proposed by the Cretan National Assembly through Consul Sandwith, except the one providing that the majority of members of all administrative, judicial, and other bodies should be composed of Christians. His Highness said that he was quite willing to give the Cretan Christians their full share in the Government in all its branches, but to place them in a majority of two-thirds, as was demanded, would be to hand the island entirely over to them, which would be unfair to the Mussulman population and prejudicial to their interests. In no other country would such a proposal be admitted. The object was to obtain efficient public functionaries and a good and just Administration; not to place the whole authority in

the hands of the Christians, which would be the case if they were in so large a majority.

I suggested to his Highness that as he was prepared to come to an understanding with the Cretan National Assembly on these terms, it would be very desirable not to lose time in entering into direct communication with it; and I proposed that the Porte should send two High Commissioners to Crete for the purpose.

Safvet Pasha expressed his entire approval of the suggestion, and his readiness to act upon it.

I then mentioned Nicolaki Pasha Sartinski as a person who, being well acquainted with the island, and enjoying the confidence of the Cretan Christians, might be chosen as the Christian Commissioner. His Highness approved of the selection. The choice of a Mahommedan Commissioner was more difficult. Several names were mentioned, and I suggested that of Hamdi Pasha, the present Vali of Smyrna, an upright and conciliatory man, who held for a few days the office of Prime Minister, and who has given satisfaction in all the places that he has occupied. Safvet Pasha agreed with me in thinking that if he could be spared from Smyrna for a short time he was the best man that could be chosen.

As Adossides Pasha does not seem equal to the duties of Governor-General of Crete, and appears to have mismanaged its affairs and to have failed to conciliate either the Mussulmans or the Christians, Safvet Pasha was inclined to agree with me in the opinion that it would be desirable to place the administration of the island in the hands of the two Commissioners until a definite arrangement could be come to for its future government. His Highness asked me whether I intended that Her Majesty's Consul should take an official part in the communications which might pass between the Commissioners and the National Assembly. I replied that in my opinion, in order to avoid international jealousies and misconceptions, it would be better that he should not. But I thought that he might act unofficially as mediator between them, and give all the assistance he properly could both in bringing them together, and in effecting a settlement of their differences. I would, I said, give him instructions in that sense, and I felt sure that from the influence which his character and position had given him over the principal Cretan Chiefs, he would contribute materially to the re-establishment of peace and tranquillity in the island.

Safvet Pasha concurred in my view, and authorised me to inform Mr. Sandwith that the Porte was willing to accept the conditions proposed by the National Assembly with the exception of the one to which I have referred, and to deal with the question of the future government of the island in a just and liberal spirit.

I have every reason to believe that his Highness is perfectly sincere in his desire to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 221.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 986.) *Therapia, August 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA spoke to me again yesterday about the financial difficulties of the Porte and of the absolute necessity for a loan. He begged me to represent to your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government could not render a greater service to Turkey than by assisting her, if possible, to obtain some money: 4,000,000*l.* are urgently required to deal with the "caimé," or paper money, which, in its present condition, is a source of the most serious inconvenience and distress to the public, gives rise to general discontent, and causes a loss to the Government, according to his Highness, of a third of the revenue. In addition to the 4,000,000*l.* for the withdrawal of the "caimé," 2,000,000*l.* more are necessary for urgent purposes. His Highness thinks that, with the assistance of Her Majesty's Government, 6,000,000*l.* sterling might be raised on the revenues of Cyprus, and on other securities which the Porte could offer.

I told Safvet Pasha that I had already, at the Sultan's request as well as his own, informed your Lordship of the serious difficulties in which the Porte found itself for want of money, and had asked your Lordship whether Her Majesty's Government

could in any way help the Turkish Government to obtain a loan. Your Lordship had replied by inquiring the amount the Porte desired to obtain.

His Highness earnestly begged me to bring the matter once more to your Lordship's notice, as the want of means of carrying on the Government and of paying the public functionaries was increasing daily, and unless a sum sufficient to withdraw the "caimé" were speedily obtained, he was at a loss to know how the Porte could meet the dangers which threatened it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 222.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 987.) *Therapia, August 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

SERVER PASHA has been named Minister of Justice, in the place of Mahmoud Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law (not to be confounded with His Majesty's other brother-in-law of the same name), who, although, I believe, a man of some capacity, proved too young and inexperienced for the post conferred upon him. The Sultan asked Server Pasha to dine at the Palace yesterday to meet me, in order that he might make suitable explanations and apologies, and be reconciled to me. I have reason to know that Server Pasha has of late, in Councils held at the Palace, advocated with ability and success a liberal policy, and a cordial friendship and alliance with England, whose advice, he assures me, he considers it absolutely necessary for the Sultan and the Porte to follow in the true interests of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 223.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 536. Confidential.) *Vienna, August 3, 1878.*

My Lord,

BARON ORCZY tells me that Count Andrassy is anxious that there should be no delay in constituting the different Commissions decided upon by the Treaty of Berlin which may afford a pretext for the Russians to remain in their present positions, or to defer the reduction of their forces in Bulgaria and East Roumelia to the strength agreed upon. His Excellency consequently proposes to call the attention of the Cabinets to the subject, and to suggest that steps should be immediately taken for putting into effect the decision of the Congress by appointing Commissioners for the definitive tracing of the frontiers.

In speaking on this subject to the Turkish Ambassador, I said that it was so clearly in the interest of the Porte that the present position of affairs should be brought to an end as soon as possible, that I thought his Government would do well if they took the initiative in inviting the Powers to proceed at once to the constitution of the different Commissions; by doing so they would at the same time give evidence of their intention to give immediate effect to the Treaty, which would be seen with satisfaction by the different Powers. Essad Bey said that he agreed with me, and would suggest it to the Porte, asking if he could say that I recommended the adoption of this course. I said that he was quite at liberty to give it as my individual opinion, provided he let it be understood that I had had no communication with your Lordship on the subject, and did not know whether Her Majesty's Government would share my views upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 224.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 542.)
Vienna, August 6, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegrams of yesterday, I have the honour to forward the substance of the account that has been published of the progress of the Imperial forces in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Extract from the "Wiener Abendpost" of August 5, 1878.

(Translation.)

ON the 1st August Baron Philippovics sent from the camp at Dervent a reconnoitring corps, consisting of a squadron of the 7th Hussars under the command of Staff-Captain Millinkovics, into the valley of the Bosna, to procure trustworthy information concerning the bridges and communications which have been destroyed by the storms, and also to distribute proclamations and prepare the people for the entry of the Austrian troops; Millinkovics was also instructed to discover what provisions could be counted on at the larger places, Doboj, Malaj, and Zepce, in order to facilitate the Austrian advance.

Captain Millinkovics arrived on the 1st August at Doboj, on the 2nd at Malaj. He was everywhere received with apparent pleasure, especially at Malaj, where the Kaimakam, the Medjlis, and the most respectable inhabitants declared their readiness to surrender unconditionally, answered for the quiet of the town, and held out a prospect of a considerable amount of provisions.

Captain Millinkovics, having heard various rumours that an insurrection was organized at Zepce in order to close the defile to the Austrian troops, pushed forward to that place in order to discover the truth. He reached the entrance unmolested, but was received there by shots. A detachment of Hussars dismounted to fire, but Millinkovics perceived that he could not advance, and marched back to Malaj. The inhabitants, who had been so friendly a short time before, had in the meanwhile barred the road between some houses, and opened a heavy fire on the approaching Hussars from both sides of the river.

Malaj lies in a narrow valley on the right bank of the Bosna; it is chiefly inhabited by Turks, and has an unarmed castle which commands the defile. The steep hill-sides make it very difficult to turn off, and confine the movements of troops to the high road, which passes close to the Bosna. The squadron had, therefore, to pass through the defile, occupied by armed inhabitants, at a short rest, and lost, so far as is yet known, about seventy men. The remainder of the squadron with Captains Millinkovics and Paczona, who each had two horses shot under them, reached the Austrian advanced guard encamped on the Usora without further loss.

Baron Philippovics was to advance to-day (6th) on Malaj, subdue the insurrection, and occupy the place.

Having already received news of the revolutionary movement at Mostar, and the murder of several Turkish functionaries, the advanced guard of the 18th Division encountered on the 4th instant a band of 300 insurgents at Ciftluk, who, being in a strong position, received the Austrian troops with a lively fire. After a short skirmish, in which the 7th Jäger battalion and one battalion of the 27th infantry regiment, with one mountain battery, took part, the enemy abandoned his positions and withdrew to Mostar. The 7th Jägers had four men wounded; the enemy left several dead on the ground; 33 prisoners, 3 flag, over 100 rifles, a quantity of ammunition, and 3 horses fell into the hands of the Austrians.

Baron Jovanovics is advancing towards Mostar.

No. 225.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 544. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 6, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY called upon me yesterday evening, to beg that I would endeavour to obtain information of the state of affairs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and respecting the fate of the Consul-General Wassitch, of whom nothing has been heard here since his expulsion by the insurgents from Bosna-Serai.

Mostar, to which place he was believed to have intended to retire, was, Count Andrassy said, in the hands of a mob who had assassinated the Turkish Mutessarif, the Cadi, and others, and much anxiety was felt about him; if it was in Mr. Freeman's power to obtain any information at Bosna-Serai, he begged that it might be communicated, and if, by the employment of special agents, he could procure news, his Excellency would be greatly obliged that they should be engaged, and any expense incurred would be reimbursed by the Imperial Government.

I said that, being aware of the interest he must take in all information coming from Bosnia, I had at once caused the substance of all Mr. Freeman's telegrams to be communicated to him as soon as they reached me, but I would telegraph to Her Majesty's Consul to obtain all the further information he could get, and to employ special agents to procure it, as his Excellency desired.

Count Andrassy is convinced that the movement in opposition to the Austrian occupation is rather what he calls socialist than political, few persons of position or property having taken part in it, while the determination of the insurgents to rid themselves of the Turkish authorities has been proclaimed.

Many, or perhaps, indeed, the greater number, of those taking part in the movement may be actuated by the hope of plunder, but there has been too great a disposition to forget that a population is not transferred unconsulted from one country to another without exciting in many breasts feelings of indignation, and a determination to resist.

Count Andrassy spoke with praise of the conduct of Ali Pasha, the Turkish Commander-in-chief at Mostar, who had retired with three battalions to Metkovitch, close to the Austrian territory.

In Bosnia the proceedings of some of the Turkish authorities had been less satisfactory, for they had in some instances sent to warn the Austrian Commanders that they had received orders from the Sultan to oppose their advance.

Safvet Pasha, when questioned by Count Zichy, had denied that any such orders had been sent, but it seems probable that emissaries of the party of resistance were going about representing themselves as having instructions from the Sovereign, and that the Kaimakams and Mutessarifs were deceived by them.

Anyhow, Count Andrassy said that things had got to a pass at which it would be necessary for him to call upon the Porte to declare categorically whether it regarded the Austrians as friends or enemies; if as the latter, they must take possession of the country by conquest, while, if they were received as friends, he repeated that he was ready, by an exchange of notes, to guarantee them against attacks from the two Principalities.

What was now passing must convince the Porte of its own inability to restore or maintain order; for its authorities were not only powerless, but were being expelled by the populace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 226.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 545.)
Vienna, August 6, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Dering's despatch No. 166, respecting the question whether Prince Milan should not adopt the title of King, I have the honour to state that the Austro-Hungarian Government would certainly not recognize His Highness under such a designation.

Count Andrassy says that he has expressed his willingness to recognize Prince

Charles as Great Prince "of Roumania," but not "of the Roumanians," of whom there is a large population subject to the Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 227.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 547.)
Vienna, August 6, 1878.
My Lord,

MR. GOULD, who has arrived here on his way to Belgrade, having mentioned to me that your Lordship thought of deferring formally accrediting him to Prince Milan till the measure for the establishment of complete religious equality was adopted, I inquired from Count Andrassy whether he would not be disposed to adopt the same course.

His Excellency did not seem much inclined to do so.

If that condition were to be made as regards Servia, the same principle might have to be applied to Roumania, where it would, in Count Andrassy's opinion, be unadvisable to put such a pressure on Prince Charles's Government as to oblige them to pass a law so much at variance with the feelings of the people as to be likely to be attended with great risk to the Jewish populations.

I gathered from his Excellency's language that it is his intention very shortly to accredit an Austro-Hungarian Representative with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary (not of Envoy) to Bucharest, and he purposes to give the same rank to the Representative at Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 228.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 550. Very Confidential.)
Vienna, August 7, 1878.
My Lord,

CARATHÉODORI PASHA, who has been kept here ever since the conclusion of the Congress without instructions giving him the slightest prospect of coming to an agreement with the Austrian Government about the occupation, has been directed by the Grand Vizier to submit to him the project of a Convention such as he thinks might be accepted by the two Governments.

His conversations with Count Andrassy have given him a tolerably accurate knowledge, and he seems confident that if his Government accepts the Agreement as he has submitted it to them, he will be able to conclude it.

In the first Convention he was instructed to propose, the Porte insisted upon it being stated that the administration of the provinces continued under the Sultan, and that the occupation was to be limited to a period of six, or at most twelve months.

Carathéodori Pasha now proposes, and says that Count Andrassy will agree, to say that the rights of the Sultan are to be respected, the Turkish functionaries maintained in office, and that the occupation shall be considered provisional according to the "mandat" given to Austria by the Powers at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 229.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 560. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 7, 1878.
My Lord,

BEFORE I received your Lordship's telegram informing me of the appeal made by the Sultan to the Queen, begging her to intercede with the Emperor of Austria to

delay the advance of his troops, with a view to avoid a further loss of blood, Count Andrassy had already been made aware of such an application having been made, and had addressed to Count Deym a telegram on the subject, for communication to your Lordship. As this will already have been conveyed to your Lordship, I need not repeat its substance, or say more than that perceiving in Count Andrassy some slight anxiety lest some encouragement might be given to the Sultan to hope that Her Majesty's Government, from motives of humanity, might suggest that the advance of the troops should be delayed, I took upon myself at once to assure him that there was not the slightest chance of your Lordship departing in any respect from what had been agreed to at Berlin.

I had, therefore, anticipated the instruction which I received from your Lordship this morning by telegraph, and when I communicated to Count Andrassy the substance of the answer returned to the Sultan's appeal, he expressed his obligations to your Lordship, as he believes that when the Porte becomes fully awakened to the conviction that the occupation is inevitable and cannot be retarded, it will consent to enter into the agreement which he is most anxious to conclude, so that it may take place in the least objectionable manner, and with the smallest risk of collision and bloodshed.

Count Andrassy said that the question of stopping the troops in the face of the opposition that had been offered to them could not, of course, be even discussed, and that as regards the loss of life which may be apprehended, any delay in carrying out the occupation would only increase the danger of it.

In this opinion I must express my entire concurrence.

According to all accounts that have been received, the Sultan has been entirely misinformed if, as appears from his appeal to the Queen, he supposes the movement in opposition to the Austrian advance to be of a general character, participated in by all classes of Mahommedans as well as by the Christians.

The movement, which it might be incorrect to designate as insurrectional if it had not been accompanied by the expulsion or murder of the Turkish authorities, is not directed by persons of position and influence, but the brigand Hadji Loja, who has proclaimed the Sheriat as the only law in vigour in Bosnia. As the Ottoman authorities are avowedly powerless to arrest the progress of the anarchy and terrorism which he is establishing, it is only by the advance of the Austrians that the area of his baneful influence can be restricted, and I believe that, far from contributing to avert the bloodshed which the Queen is so anxious to see avoided, I should not be acting in the true interests of the populations if I were to make any representations to the Austrian Government in favour of delay.

The danger of a sanguinary struggle might be averted or diminished, if an agreement respecting the occupation can be come to between the Porte and the Imperial Government, and when the former shows a disposition to enter into such an understanding on a reasonable basis, I may be able to render it some service by urging Count Andrassy to be satisfied with terms as little painful to the Sultan as they can be made.

I have already spoken in this sense to his Excellency, and have said that there appears to me much injustice in the irritation felt towards the Sultan and his Government because they do not show alacrity in carrying out the decisions of the Congress by which important territories are to be ceded both in Bosnia and on the Greek frontier, and he is, I think, disposed to make due allowance for the natural feelings that must be entertained at Constantinople on the subject, provided the resistance there to what is inevitable is not carried too far.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 230.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 561. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 7, 1878.
My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY has received from the Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh a telegram stating that immediately on the evacuation of Varna by the Turks the Russians will commence withdrawing their troops from San Stefano and the

neighbourhood of Constantinople, and that their force would be reduced to 50,000 men.

He is in doubt whether this means that the whole force remaining on Turkish soil is to be reduced to the strength fixed for the occupation of Bulgaria and East Roumelia, or whether the Russian Government propose to keep 50,000 men more in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, which they can do without any infraction of the international engagement taken at Berlin, though it would be contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 231.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 146. Political. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August 6, 1878.*

THE Roumanian Government does not conceal its great anxiety as to the seeds of future discord which Russian and Slavonic agitators may leave in the Dobrudscha before that province is actually incorporated with this Principality.

Colonel Falcoyano of this army was sent unofficially to make inquiries as to the state of things in the neighbourhood of Silistria, where there is a population speaking Roumanian, but the Russian military authorities objected to his travelling there, and he had to be recalled.

A few days ago General Bobrikoff passed through Bucharest, stating that he had been employed for some years on secret military missions in European Turkey, was subsequently military adviser to Prince Milan during the late war, and latterly was employed on the Commission at Berlin. He proceeded from here to the Dobrudscha, and this officer's mysterious movements, combined with the encouragement which is said to be given by the highest Russian officials to Slavonic propaganda amongst populations inhabiting districts beyond the limits assigned to Bulgaria (such as the speech attributed to General Dondoukoff Korsakoff), as also the uncertainty prevailing about the time when the new territory will be handed over to Prince Charles, all contribute to make this Government extremely anxious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 232.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 467.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 7, 1878.*

I CALLED upon Herr von Radowitz to-day, and in obedience to your Lordship's telegram received last night, informed him that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to nominate a Commission to proceed to Constantinople, to assist, as decided by the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, in elaborating the organization of Eastern Roumelia, and inquired if the German Government were also prepared to send a Commissioner at once to Constantinople for the same purpose.

Herr von Radowitz informed me that the German Government had already nominated their Commissioner, who would shortly proceed to Constantinople. His Excellency further stated that a Consul had also been appointed under the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin, to assist the Russian Commissioner in Bulgaria. The names of the gentlemen selected to fill these posts had already been submitted for approval, and as soon as it has been granted their names will be officially communicated to Her Majesty's Government.

I have subsequently informed Herr von Radowitz that Sir Henry Drummond Wolff has been nominated British Commissioner under the XVIIIth Article of the Berlin Treaty, and that he would leave for Constantinople next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 233.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 469. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 7, 1878.*

IN the course of my conversation to-day with Herr von Radowitz, his Excellency requested me to call your Lordship's attention to the wording of the 10th paragraph of the IInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as he was anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government understood the words "la Commission Européene," to refer to the Commission which was being formed under the provisions of Article XVIII, which might, he said logically be inferred, or whether they considered them to apply to one of the Commissions to be appointed for delimitation of the new frontiers, which would naturally be composed of technical experts.

For his own part, he confessed he thought the latter would be a far more practical course to adopt, but as there might be a divergence of opinion as to the interpretation of these few words among the various Powers, he was framing an instruction to the German Representatives accredited to them, to elicit their opinion on the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

No. 234.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 471.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 7, 1878.*

M. DE RADOWITZ referred, in the course of our conversation on the 7th instant, to the note addressed to him on the 29th ultimo by Lord Odo Russell on the subject of the word omitted in the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, a copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in his Excellency's despatch No. 448 of the same date.

His Excellency informed me that the original manuscript of Article LVIII in the handwriting of Herr von Jasmund had been found, the words having been taken down by him from the dictation of M. Desprez, and that the word "près" was not in this manuscript, which was intended for the use of the printer. M. Desprez must evidently have omitted the word through an oversight, as M. de Motty, as well as M. de Radowitz, agree with Lord Odo Russell and General Simmons, and recollect its adoption by the Congress, and its being communicated to Prince Hohenlohe and M. Desprez, as President and Reporter of the "Redaction Commission," as part of the Article in question.

I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship copy and translation of a note which I received last night from M. de Radowitz, confirming the above statement and adding that on questioning Count Schouvaloff on the subject on his passage through Berlin on the 6th instant, the Russian Plenipotentiary declared he recollected the insertion of the word "près" in the place alluded to in the LVIIIth Article at the request of the English Plenipotentiaries, and no possible objection could be raised by Russia to its being restored to its place.

Herr von Radowitz consequently states the word "près" to have been omitted through an oversight, and considers that it belongs in reality to the correct text of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY NEVILL DERING.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Herr von Radowitz to Mr. Dering.

(Translation.)
M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Berlin, August 9, 1878.*

IN reply to his Excellency Lord Odo Russell's much esteemed note of the 29th ultimo, respecting the wording of the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin of the

13th July, 1878, I have the honour to make the following communication to you :—

The final decisions taken by the Congress in the sitting of the 12th July, respecting the wording of Article LVIII, were dictated to Herr von Jasmund, Secretary of Legation and Secretary to the Commission of "Redaction," by M. Desprez, French Plenipotentiary and Reporter to the said Commission.

In neither of the two manuscripts prepared for signature and print by Herr von Jasmund from the above dictation is the word "près" to be found in the place assigned to it in Article LVIII. In consequence of this it was not possible for this word to have been inserted in the print.

I am, however, placed in a position by a communication from Count de Moüy, who, as Secretary to the Congress, was summoned to assist at the framing of the draft of Article LVIII in the sitting of the 12th July (Protocol XIX), to assert that the words "près du" were certainly inserted into the text at the wish of the English Plenipotentiaries, and that they were actually included in the amended text from which M. Desprez dictated the Article, as finally approved, to Herr von Jasmund.

It can consequently only have been the result of an oversight in dictation that the word "près" was not inserted in the manuscript intended for the printer.

I have further had the opportunity to lay the question addressed to me by Lord Odo Russell before his Excellency Count Schouvaloff, who passed through Berlin on the 6th instant. The Russian Plenipotentiary acknowledged, on reflection, that, to the best of his recollection, the words "près du," after the word "l'ouest" and before "village" in the place attributed to them in Article LVIII, were positively accepted by the Representatives taking part in the discussion, and that no objection was possible on the part of Russia to the re-establishment of the original wording of this clause ("wieder-herstellung dieses Textes").

The word "près," consequently, in the above-mentioned place, was only omitted through an oversight, and belongs, in reality, to the correct text of the Treaty.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) RADOWITZ.

No. 235.

Acting Consul-General Hunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 34. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, August* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship in original, together with a translation, a notice purporting to emanate from the Russian Socialist Revolutionary Party, and sent anonymously under cover by the town post, to Her Majesty's Consul-General in this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY W. HUNT.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Notice from the Executive Committee of the Russian Socialist Revolutionary Party.

(Translation.)

THE new course lately taken by the Russian Socialist Revolutionary Party, and indicated by the murder of Baron Von Heiking, of Nikonof, the Rostof spy, and by other similar facts, has caused a great number of anonymous letters of a threatening character to be sent to officials as well as to private individuals, very often pretending to proceed from the Executive Committee, in whose name the above-mentioned acts were perpetrated.

The moral responsibility which we incur by our acts compels us to inform the public that the authors of those threatening letters have nothing in common with the Executive Committee, and very often nothing in common with the Revolutionary Party.

And we moreover deem it necessary to inform the revolutionist authors of those letters that the threats which they make must be carried out by themselves, and on their own responsibility. To the authors, who are mere outsiders, we say that we shall persecute them as our wickedest enemies.

In order, however, to avoid further misunderstandings, all notices emanating from us will be printed on the forms used by the Executive Committee, and will be sealed with its seal.

The legend on the seal is as follows :—"Executive Committee of the Russian Socialist Revolutionary Party," and the device consists of a revolver, a dagger, and an axe.

No. 236.

Acting Consul-General Hunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 35. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, August* 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Journal d'Odessa," giving an account of the trial of the students referred to in Mr. Stanley's telegram of the 12th February last, and also an official Report of the disturbance which took place after the sentence was pronounced.

The number of killed and wounded on that occasion is said to be eleven, of whom, however, only three have as yet died of their wounds.

The event has produced great alarm in this city, and the military authorities have evidently adopted very careful measures to prevent any further disturbance. The streets of the city and suburbs are patrolled at night, and strong detachments of Cossacks are on duty at the residences of the principal military authorities.

A great number of persons, estimated at 200, have since been arrested, and a strict search is being made for the remainder of those who came to this city from various parts of the country for the purpose of taking part in the demonstration. They are said to be principally students from the Universities of Kief and Kharkoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY W. HUNT.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Extract from the "Journal d'Odessa" of $\frac{\text{July } 29}{\text{August } 10}$, 1878.

ON lit dans les "Viedomisti Odeskago Gradonatchalstva" :—

"AVIS DU PRÉFET DE LA VILLE D'ODESSA.— Hier le 24 Juillet, après le prononcé du jugement du procès relatif à la résistance armée faite lors des visites domiciliaires de la Rue Sadovaïa, quelques individus de la foule stationnant sur les deux trottoirs de la rue conduisant au Tribunal Militaire, ont commencé à manifester bruyamment leur mécontentement contre la sévérité du jugement. Le public n'ayant pas obéi aux injonctions de la police d'avoir à se retirer, une compagnie de soldats fut requise pour mettre fin au désordre ; alors, des derniers rangs de la foule, qui se trouvait pressée sur un des trottoirs, partirent plusieurs coups de revolver, et quatre soldats furent blessés.

"La compagnie de soldats n'a pas repondu aux coups de pistolet, et en continuant toujours à suivre la direction qui lui avait été indiquée, elle est parvenue à disperser la foule et à rétablir l'ordre.

"Deux individus qui se trouvaient dans les premiers rangs de la foule ont été tués par les coups de revolver partis des derniers rangs de la foule."

On lit dans les "Viedomisti Odeskago Gradonatchalstva" :—

"Le procès de l'affaire de résistance armée dans la rue Sadovaïa, qui a tenu cinq audiences du Tribunal d'Arrondisement Militaire, s'est terminé hier, 24 Juillet, à 9 heures du soir.

"A 2 heures après-midi les Juges se sont retirés dans la chambre des délibérations, d'où ils sont sortis après sept heures, et le Président du Tribunal, le Général-Major Kirilline, a lu le jugement par lequel le Tribunal a reconnu coupables tous les accusés et les a condamnés :—

"Kovalski à la perte de tous les droits civils et à être fusillé;

"Svitich, Witaschewski, Klenoff, et Stoudzinski, aux travaux forcés; le premier dans une forteresse pour huit ans, et les autres à quatre ans dans les mines.

"Mdmes. Afanassieva et Witten à la perte des droits civils, et à être déportées dans le Gouvernement de Tobolsk, la première avec la défense de quitter le lieu de l'internement pendant un an, et pendant deux autres années de sortir des autres Gouvernements de la Sibérie. Mdme. Merjanova à être emprisonnée pendant trois semaines."

No. 237.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

5, Russell Terrace, Cliff Town, Southend, August 10, 1878.

My Lord,

A LETTER I have received from Erzeroum, dated 7th July, contains the following intelligence:—

"General Lazaroff, commanding the Russians at Erzeroum, who had been absent on leave, was expected back on the 14th July.

"The garrison holding Erzeroum consisted of the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Battalions of one of the infantry regiments of the 30th Division, three batteries of artillery (twenty-four guns), one regiment of Dragoons, and one of Cossacks.

"A large infantry force was under canvas about three miles south of Erzeroum at Aghzi Achik, and a cavalry force was stationed at Djiniz, on the Erzingjian road, and at Illijeh, nine miles north-west of Erzeroum on the Trebizond road."

My correspondent adds that the administration of the occupied districts is now fairly carried on, but the undecided position in which the people, Mussulman and Christian, are placed, is very prejudicial to their interests; it was not even known whether the Russians intended remaining till next spring.

M. Gilbert, the French Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, has received, in addition to the Legion of Honour and other rewards from his Government, the Iron Crown of Italy, an Austrian decoration, and from Russia a gold medal and the order of St. Anne in diamonds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 238.

M. Coumoundouros to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, August 12.)

Athènes, le $^{24}/_{6}$ *Juillet*, 1878.

Monsieur,

A LA date du $^{24}/_{6}$ Juillet je vous ai envoyé le télégramme suivant:—

"Grand incendie en Thessalie. Céréales détruits. Dans trente villages l'incendie a exercé de grands ravages. Vingt-deux maisons ont été brûlées dans le village de Sefades. On dit que dans un autre village plusieurs maisons ont été brûlées et deux enfants ont péri dans les flammes. Tout concourt à établir que cet incendie n'est pas fortuit; car il a pris naissance à plusieurs points à la fois. Veuillez signaler ces faits au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité et appeler son attention la plus sérieuse sur cet état de choses, qui montre qu'une anarchie complète régne dans ces provinces. Il est aussi à présumer que par ce moyen l'autorité locale cherche à intimider les habitants et les contraindre à demander l'autonomie."

Les rapports de toutes nos autorités Consulaires en Epire et en Thessalie sont unanimes à constater l'anarchie complète qui régne dans ces provinces et les crimes qui s'y commettent journellement. Le brigandage a atteint des proportions effrayantes. D'Arta, quinze garde-frontières ont déserté pour se livrer au brigandage, et l'autorité militaire n'a pris aucune mesure pour leur arrestation.

Les paysans ont adressé une requête à l'autorité locale pour protester contre les patrouilles militaires qui, sous prétexte de protéger la sécurité publique, entrent dans les villages et dans les champs et commettent toutes sortes d'abus. Les paysans se sont offerts à maintenir l'ordre public par leurs propres moyens, mais l'autorité locale s'est montrée sourde à leurs réclamations.

A Carditza un officier de l'armée Turque, le nommé Moussa-Gnéyan, a massacré des réfugiés qui rentraient dans leurs foyers.

Je crois inutile d'entrer dans de plus longs détails et d'énumérer les méfaits qui sont à l'ordre du jour dans ces provinces.

Anarchie complète, manque de sécurité et brigandage, tel est en grands traits le tableau que présentent ces pays.

L'autorité locale aurait pu réprimer ces désordres par une action plus énergique, et si elle ne le fait pas, c'est qu'elle croit que cet état de choses pourrait servir ses desseins en jetant l'épouvante parmi les habitants et en les rendant dociles à ses suggestions. En effet, des émissaires de l'autorité locale cherchent à faire signer aux habitants des pétitions pour protester contre l'annexion de ces provinces à la Grèce.

Heureusement ces manœuvres ont échoué devant la ferme volonté des habitants de s'unir avec la Grèce.

Mais une situation pareille ne saurait durer plus longtemps sans amener des catastrophes irréparables.

Veuillez faire des faits relatés dans la présente l'objet de vos conversations avec les Membres du Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité et attirer leur attention sur l'urgence d'y remédier.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) A. COUMOUNDOUROS.

No. 239.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 742.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 11, 1878.

CONSUL-GENERAL telegraphs that Austrian Commissioner has received instructions to attempt to prevent anything coming out before Commission which may wound the honour of the Russian army; Italian Commissioner has received similar instructions, but in a mild form. Both Delegates consider course prescribed as contrary to written instructions. Commission has reached Philippopolis, and is about to visit Demotica district.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, August 12, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 10th, Count Andrassy says that until the Porte concludes a Convention respecting the occupation he cannot consent to give a guarantee against attack from Servia or Montenegro, but he will be ready to do so by official note as soon as such Convention is agreed upon.

He will not agree to have a term fixed for its duration, and must adhere to the proposal as made by Count Zichy, which provided for respect for the Sultan, for the maintenance in office of the Turkish officers, for the protection of the Mahometan religion, and the presence of a Mussulman member in the Courts of Law.

With regard to Greece he told M. Delyanni that he must expect no support if it adopted hostile measures, but he does not wish this communicated to the Porte as it would probably have the effect of encouraging resistance to rectification of frontier.

No. 241.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 12, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Government is informed that well-armed bands have been allowed by Turkish authorities to proceed from Uskup and other places to Bosnia, and also that the greater part of the garrison of Sienitza have gone to join the insurgents.

They are also informed by Turkish Ambassador that instructions have been sent to Hafiz Pasha at Bosna-Serai that the Austrians are to be received as friends, but as that Pasha is more or less under the influence of insurgents it is most desirable that the instructions shall be made known to other Turkish authorities at Bosna-Serai as well as in all other places of importance.

No time is to be lost if the Porte is to obtain friendship of Austria.

Regular Turkish troops are fighting against Austrians, and Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs says that if things continue as at present and the Imperial troops have to enter Bosna-Serai as enemies he will not engage that they shall not go further than was at first intended.

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 12, 1878.

AUSTRIAN Government will immediately name a Commissioner for East Roumelian Commission. They consider that the Bulgarian Commission, which will be one of superintendency, will be a separate one.

No. 243.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 196.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 12, 1878.

IMPORTANT strategical town Travnik was yesterday occupied by Austrians without opposition. At recent battle of Juice entire battalion of Redifs surrendered, and admitted that another battalion of regulars had taken part in fight.

No. 244.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 144, M. de Giers informs me that Emperor agrees to earlier assembly of East Roumelian Commission, and begs to know what date Her Majesty's Government proposes. M. de Giers suggests the 1st September. Emperor maintains the opinion that the three months should be counted only from day on which Commission arrives on spot, otherwise it will not have sufficient time to complete anything, and Russian Government hope Her Majesty's Government will agree to this interpretation of Article XVIII.

No. 245.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 12, 1878.

RUSSIAN "Invalide" announces that two Russian regiments entered Varna on the 8th.

Turkish Ambassador seems to fear that, notwithstanding their promises, Russians will still not leave San Stefano till the whole of Varna is evacuated.

I hear from trustworthy private source that orders have been given for commencing demobilization of armies in Europe on the 15th, and for returning Turkish prisoners; but I cannot learn that any orders have yet been sent to withdraw from the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

M. de Giers is absent to-day.

No. 246.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1878, 7·35 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 742 of yesterday's date, I think it important whole truth whatever it is should come out.

No. 247.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 944.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 742 of yesterday's date, from which it appears that the Austrian member of the Commission sent to the Rhodope districts has received instructions to endeavour that no revelations shall be made before the Commission which would injuriously affect the honour of the Russian army, and that similar instructions, though in a milder form, have also been received by the Italian Commissioner.

I have informed your Excellency in reply that in my opinion it is important that the whole truth, whatever it may be, as to the causes which have led to the sufferings of the Mussulman population and to the rising in Mount Rhodope, should be impartially investigated and ascertained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 249.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 12 Août*, 1878.
(Confidentielle.)

LE Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a eu la gracieuseté de nous promettre ses bons offices pour la conclusion d'un emprunt de 6,000,000*l.* sterling environ, avec un intérêt de 4 pour cent, destiné à la retraite des papiers-monnaies. Les revenus de l'Ile de Chypre, dont le montant n'était pas encore fixé d'une manière définitive, serait affecté à cet emprunt, et le Gouvernement Ottoman complétera le surplus par d'autres revenus non-engagés. Mr. Layard ayant dernièrement télégraphié à Lord Salisbury au sujet de cette affaire, je vous prie d'en entretenir de votre côté immédiatement sa Seigneurie, et de me télégraphier sa réponse.

No. 250.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 743.) *Therapia, August* 12, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER informs me that a Project of Agreement with Austria, suggested by Carratheodory Pasha, was accepted yesterday by the Council, with some slight additions relating to the lease of establishment and lands belonging to the Crown. His Highness hopes that a satisfactory settlement will be now come to with Austria. I communicated to him the substance of your two telegrams of Saturday on the subject.

No. 251.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 745. Secret.) *Therapia, August* 12, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER tells me that he could not understand clearly from the Russian Ambassador, who communicated to him this morning officially the Emperor's orders for the embarkation and withdrawal of the Russian armies, whether they are to retire altogether from the territory restored to the Sultan, and give up Adrianople. His Highness proposes that Her Majesty's Government will not withdraw the British fleet until the Russians have complied with the Treaty of Berlin, by retiring within the limits of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 252.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, August 13, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE informed Russian Chargé d'Affaires that as soon as General Todleben informs you that Russian army is retiring from Constantinople the fleet will go to Gallipoli; and as soon as he informs you that it has retired beyond the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, the fleet will pass the Dardanelles. Make same statement to Prince Lobanoff.

We have adopted Eastern Roumelia partly in deference to Grand Vizier, partly because Treaty of Berlin, having been substituted for Treaty of San Stefano, line formerly proposed had become antiquated.

No. 253.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1878.

MR. OGLE is apprehensive that names of Greek witnesses which he sent to you some weeks back might injure them if divulged. Please keep them secret for the present.

No. 254.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 946. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1878.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me confidentially a telegram, of which a copy is inclosed, stating that Her Majesty's Government had consented to give their good offices to enable the Porte to raise a loan of 6,000,000*l.* sterling, at 4 per cent. interest, on the security of the revenues of Cyprus, to be supplemented by other impledged sources of income.

I told his Excellency that this was a mistake, for that no intention of that sort on our part had been even indicated. Her Majesty's Government had carefully considered the application of the Grand Vizier. But they had come to the conclusion that, in view of the hypothecation of the revenues of Cyprus to the ordinary creditors of the Porte, it was difficult for them to take any steps of the kind without at the same time considering with care the position of those creditors, and the possibility of in some manner dealing with their claims.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 255.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 954. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1878.

I HAVE read with much interest your Excellency's despatch No. 961, marked Very Confidential, containing the summary of a scheme entertained by M. Zarifi, the Sultan's banker, for the union of Turkey and Greece in an Empire similar to that of Austria-Hungary.

I can only say, in reply to M. Zarifi's inquiry, that Her Majesty's Government could not give their support to any proposal of the kind unless they were previously assured that it was acceptable to the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 256.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 956. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1878.

I LEARNED on the 11th instant, from your Excellency's telegraphic despatch No. 740, that you had received from the Russian Ambassador a letter announcing that orders had been sent to General Todleben for the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and stating that he had been instructed to make this communication in view of the arrangement for the simultaneous retreat of the Russian army and the British fleet.

I instructed you on the 12th instant to inform Prince Lobanoff, in reply, that as soon as General Todleben's army begins to retire the British fleet will move down to

Gallipoli, and that when it has retired behind the line of Dédéagatch, Adrianople, and Midia, the British fleet will pass the Straits of the Dardanelles.

This morning I received your Excellency's telegram marked Secret, No. 745, of the 12th instant, in which you inform me of the doubts entertained by the Grand Vizier whether it is intended by the Russians to withdraw their forces altogether from the territory restored to the Sultan and to give up Adrianople, and of his Highness' wish that the British fleet should not be withdrawn until the Russian Government have complied with the Treaty of Berlin by retiring within the limits of Eastern Roumelia.

I have therefore requested you not to act upon my instruction of yesterday, and I have since informed you of the communication I have made on this subject to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court.

I told M. Bartholomei that as soon as General Todleben informs your Excellency that the Russian army is retiring from Constantinople the British fleet will withdraw to Gallipoli; and that as soon as you are informed that the Russian forces have retired beyond the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, the fleet will pass the Dardanelles.

Your Excellency is authorized to make the same statement to Prince Labanoff.

Her Majesty's Government have substituted the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia for the line of Dédéagatch, Adrianople, and Midia, partly in deference to the wishes of the Grand Vizier, and partly because, since the signature of the Treaty of Berlin, the line formerly proposed has become obsolete.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 257.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 436.)
Foreign Office, August 13, 1878.

Sir,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and told me that his Government proposed that six Commissions should be formed to complete the arrangements under the Treaty of Berlin, namely:—

One Consular Commission, to take part in the provisional administration of Bulgaria;

One Constituent Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia;

Three Commissions for the delimitation of frontiers in Europe;

And one Commission for the delimitation of frontiers in Asia.

I told M. Bartholomei that I thought one Commission of Delimitation for Europe would suffice; that, if the Russian Government were disposed to lay stress upon the matter, Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to appoint three Commissioners. I thought, however, it would be best to appoint only a single Commission in the first instance.

M. Bartholomei then spoke of Batoum, and pressed me to obtain from the Porte the withdrawal from that place of Dervish Pasha and the troops under his command.

I disclaimed our having any power over the Turkish Government in such matters, though I did not doubt that it would observe the most absolute neutrality. I added that I feared his Government (as I had warned Count Schouvaloff at Berlin) would meet with great trouble and difficulty from the opposition of the Laz tribes.

He then spoke to me concerning the withdrawal of the Russian army and of the British fleet from the neighbourhood of Constantinople. I told M. Bartholomei that when the Russian forces retired from before Constantinople we could withdraw our ships to Gallipoli; and that when their army had retired within the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, our ships would pass the Dardanelles. The matter might, if his Government desired it, be made the subject of an exchange of notes between M. de Giers and yourself, or between General Todleben and Sir Geoffrey Hornby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 258.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 24. Political.)
Jassy, August 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have reliable information that a Russian captain has been staying at Calinesti, in the extreme north of Moldavia, making minute inquiries as to the resources of the country and other matters; also that Veresti and Botoshani have been similarly visited.

I think it my duty to report these circumstances, as although the Russians are stated to be making inquiries as to roads and the resources of the country, in view of the return of a portion of their army by road, it would hardly appear necessary to extend such inquiries to the extreme north near the Austrian frontier.

I had before heard vague rumours of officers visiting the frontier, but have now seen a gentleman who assures me he saw them at the above-named places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

No. 259.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 604.)
St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two copies of the French translation published by the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the important official article which appeared yesterday in the "Presvetelny Vestnik."

This article, which is evidently intended to silence hostile criticism, and to win over public opinion in this country, contains an official review of the events which brought about the late war, and after endeavouring to show how noble and disinterested has been the conduct of the Imperial Government throughout, in spite of the continued opposition of Great Britain and other European Powers, proceeds to declare that, although the Treaty of Berlin does not realize as much as Russia might have had the right to expect after a victorious campaign, it nevertheless is a great step towards the enfranchisement of the Eastern Christians, and is a glorious proof both of the power and of the disinterestedness of the Imperial Government.

The article sums up as follows the immediate advantages obtained by Russia at Berlin:—

She has torn up the Treaty of 1856, thus enabling Russia to watch freely over the further progress of her holy mission in the East.

She has regained the territory which an iniquitous war had deprived her of; has again obtained access to the Danube, and has acquired in Asia territories, strategic positions, and a harbour most advantageous both to her security and prosperity.

This official defence of the Russian policy contains a frank acknowledgment that what has been done is only a step towards further proceedings at some not distant date.

"Si incomplète qu'elle soit, l'œuvre du Congrès de Berlin marque un nouveau pas dans cette voie" (the deliverance by Russia of the Eastern Christians) "un pas important quoique péniblement conquis. Il ne reste qu'à la consolider et à la développer. Ce sera la tâche d'un prochain avenir," and the article concludes with these words, "Le Congrès de Berlin a été une étape dans cette voie laborieuse. En l'envisageant à ce point de vue la Russie peut puiser dans le passé la confiance nécessaire pour l'avenir."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ *5*, 1878.

LE Traité de Berlin vient d'être ratifié.

Le moment est venu de juger cette transaction Européenne, couronnement d'une guerre où la Russie s'est engagée, non par calcul, dans un but quelconque d'ambition politique ou d'avantages matériels, mais entraînée par un sentiment plus fort que tous les calculs, plus fort que la raison même—le sentiment humain, Chrétien, qui saisit l'honnête homme en présence d'une odieuse et criante iniquité.

La nation Russe et les braves armées Russes ont accepté cette tâche, et l'ont accomplie avec trop d'abnégation pour ne pas avoir le droit de se rendre compte des résultats de tant de sacrifices.

Afin de les apprécier à leur juste valeur, sans prévention, sans irritation passionnée, et sans défaillance, il importe de suivre cette grande crise historique dans ses origines, son développement et son issue.

Dès le début des troubles actuels de l'Orient le Cabinet Impérial a prévu qu'ils devaient être le signal d'une crise sérieuse. Les agitations en Herzégovine n'étaient pas graves en elle-mêmes, elles étaient la goutte d'eau qui devait faire déborder un vase trop plein.

Désirant prévenir les dangers qui pouvaient en résulter pour la paix de l'Orient et de l'Europe, le Cabinet Impérial s'est ouvert de celui de Vienne le plus immédiatement intéressé, et lui a offert son concours en vue de rechercher, de concert avec les Grandes Puissances, les moyens d'apaiser ces troubles et de conjurer la crise qu'il prévoyait.

Ces ouvertures ont amené la tentative de conciliation des Consuls, puis la dépêche de M. le Comte Andrassy, du 30 Décembre, 1875, à laquelle toutes les Puissances ont adhéré. Elle renfermait une série de réformes et d'améliorations que les Cabinets Signataires des Traités de 1856 et de 1871 recommandaient à la Porte comme indispensables pour ramener la tranquillité et satisfaire aux obligations qu'elle avait contractées en faveur de ses populations Chrétiennes.

Toutefois, ces bonnes intentions ont échoué par manque des garanties d'exécution. Sans ces garanties les insurgés refusaient de déposer les armes et de rentrer dans leurs foyers. Tant qu'ils ne déposaient les armes la Porte se déclarait dans l'impossibilité d'exécuter les réformes dont elle avait accepté le principe. Elle les avait même dépassées en publiant un programme d'institutions plus larges et plus générales. Mais la sanction y manquait également, et les réformes sur papier n'inspiraient pas de confiance aux populations trop souvent et trop longtemps abusées.

Il y avait là un cercle vicieux dont il était urgent de sortir. Il fallait faire un pas de plus dans la voie de l'apaisement que poursuivaient tous les Cabinets. L'Europe seule, avec son autorité collective, pouvait donner aux améliorations décrétées la garantie nécessaire pour les rendre efficaces et rassurer les populations.

Tel fut le but du Mémorandum de Berlin (Avril 1876). Elaboré de concert avec M. le Prince de Bismarck et M. le Comte Andrassy, ce Mémorandum fut communiqué aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Berlin pour être discuté et soumis à leurs Cours. Le principe d'une action collective de l'Europe y était posé comme sanction aux réformes recommandées par les Cabinets. D'après l'avis que la Russie avait émis, cette action devait consister en une démonstration maritime combinée, tant à Constantinople que sur les côtes, et dans les ports de la Turquie d'Europe où la tranquillité était menacée. Son but devait être, d'un côté, d'imposer à la Porte la volonté collective de l'Europe; de l'autre, de rassurer les populations Chrétiennes et de veiller à leur sécurité.

Acceptée par la plupart des Cabinets cette proposition échoua devant le refus du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, qui jugea toute mesure de coercition incompatible avec les Traités qui garantissaient à la Porte l'indépendance de son administration intérieure.

Dès lors, les événements se précipitèrent vers l'issue que tout devait faire prévoir. La tension extrême qui existait sur les frontières de la Serbie et du Monténégro provoqua l'explosion des hostilités entre ces Principautés et la Porte. La conflagration menaçait de s'étendre à tout l'Orient.

Dans ces conjonctures le Cabinet Impérial ne ralentit point ses efforts pour amener un concert des Grandes Puissances en vue d'une action collective, dont l'urgence devenait chaque jour plus pressante. Il proposa à cet effet à Vienne et

à Londres une démonstration militaire combinée de la Russie en Bulgarie, de l'Autriche en Bosnie, et des escadres Européennes à Constantinople et dans les mers du Levant. Cette proposition échoua comme les précédentes, et par les mêmes motifs.

La Conférence réunie à Constantinople sur les bases proposées par le Cabinet de Londres fut une dernière tentative de pacification. L'Europe s'était décidée à une intervention au moins morale dans les affaires intérieures de la Turquie au nom de ses intérêts généraux se rattachant au maintien de la paix. On discuta avec la Porte tout un plan de réformes destinées à concilier le pouvoir du Sultan avec l'existence prospère de ses sujets Chrétiens. On y ajouta les garanties matérielles qui, en dehors de toute coercition exclue par les Traités, semblaient pouvoir assurer l'exécution pratique des réformes. La Porte y répondit par un nouveau refus.

En attendant, la guerre avec la Serbie et le Monténégro avait suivi son cours. Les massacres accomplis en Bulgarie, et qui avaient soulevé l'indignation de l'Europe, attestaient à quels excès le fanatisme surexcité des masses pouvait porter cette lutte acharnée.

Après avoir fait tous ses efforts pour prévenir ce déplorable état de choses, le Cabinet Impérial ne pouvait pas y rester indifférent. Il affectait péniblement les intérêts de la Russie comme Grande Puissance Européenne voisine de la Turquie, et ses sentiments comme Puissance Chrétienne unie aux populations de la presqu'île des Balkans par le double lien d'une communauté de foi et de race.

Il était évident qu'aussi longtemps que subsisterait la certitude d'une complète impunité assurée au Gouvernement Turc par les stipulations du Traité de 1856, et derrière laquelle il se retranchait avec une invincible obstination, on n'obtiendrait de lui aucune réforme efficace de son administration oppressive. Il fallait donc se résigner à un écrasement permanent des populations Chrétiennes incompatible avec les intérêts de l'Europe et révoltant pour l'Humanité, ou bien à des convulsions périodiques inconciliables avec son repos.

Le Cabinet Impérial ne crut pas possible d'accepter cette situation. Déjà il avait été obligé d'arrêter par un ultimatum péremptoire l'armée Turque prête à renouveler en Serbie les massacres dont la Bulgarie avait été le théâtre. Si les décisions de la Conférence de Constantinople restaient dépourvues de toute sanction obligatoire, elles ne pouvaient qu'encourager les Turcs dans leur résistance aux vœux de l'Europe.

Dans cette prévision Sa Majesté l'Empereur avait ordonné la mobilisation d'une partie de son armée sur la frontière méridionale de l'Empire.

Avant de prendre aucune décision en présence de l'échec de la Conférence, Sa Majesté ordonna de demander à tous les Gouvernements qui y avaient participé ce qu'ils comptaient faire à la suite du refus catégorique opposé par la Porte aux Conseils et aux vœux de l'Europe.

Cet appel n'obtint pas de réponse précise. Toutefois les Gouvernements semblaient hésiter comme auparavant devant toute mesure coercitive et se borner à attendre du temps, du bon vouloir de la Porte, et de la pression morale des Cabinets, une certaine déférence aux demandes des Puissances.

Une pareille condescendance, dans des circonstances ordinaires, n'aurait fait qu'enraciner dans l'esprit des Ministres Turcs la conviction que l'Europe s'était lié les mains par les stipulations du Traité de 1856, et qu'ils pouvaient en toute sécurité braver ses arrêts et persévérer dans leur système de Gouvernement. Mais dans les conjonctures du moment, en présence de l'excitation de la lutte, du déchaînement des passions et du fanatisme, il fallait s'attendre à ce qu'une pareille défaillance de la part de l'Europe aurait pour résultat, non-seulement la continuation indéfinie du système oppressif de l'Administration Ottomane, mais une recrudescence de violences et d'excès qui ne connaîtraient plus ni freins ni limites et aboutiraient à l'anéantissement des populations Chrétiennes ou à une guerre d'extermination.

Une dernière tentative fut encore faite à Londres afin de donner à la Porte un avertissement sérieux. Un Protocole fut rédigé dans le but de maintenir l'intérêt que les Puissances portaient aux réformes recommandées par la Conférence de Constantinople, de prendre acte des promesses faites par le Gouvernement Turc, de spécifier les points qu'il avait promis d'exécuter, et de l'inviter à entrer loyalement dans la voie indiquée par les Puissances. En cas contraire, les Puissances, considérant l'état de choses existant comme incompatible avec l'intérêt général, aviseraient aux moyens d'assurer l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes.

Le Cabinet Impérial y avait ajouté une déclaration portant que si ce Protocole était accepté par la Porte, si la paix était conclue avec le Monténégro, si le Gouverne-

ment Turc attestait par des faits sa résolution d'exécuter les réformes, et s'il n'y avait pas de nouveaux massacres, la Russie consentirait à s'entendre avec un Envoyé du Sultan au sujet de la démobilisation et du désarmement.

Toutefois, les réticences contenues dans cet avertissement n'avaient pas pu échapper à l'attention de la Porte. Les Puissances avaient hésité devant l'emploi même éventuel d'une action, ou même de mesures quelconques vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Turc ; elles s'étaient contentées d'aviser aux moyens d'assurer l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens.

De plus, le Cabinet de Londres avait jugé nécessaire d'y joindre, de son côté, une déclaration portant que si la paix n'en résultait pas, le Protocole n'aurait pas de valeur.

On ne pouvait donc pas s'attendre à voir la Porte montrer plus de déférence que par le passé aux injonctions des Cabinets.

Ce fut alors que Sa Majesté l'Empereur, ne trouvant pas possible de tolérer plus longtemps une situation qui n'était ni la paix ni la guerre, qui blessait les sentiments de la Russie et lui imposait des charges sans compensations et sans résultats, résolut de se charger seul des mesures de coercition sans lesquelles il n'y avait pas d'issue possible. Sa Majesté fit connaître à toutes les Grandes Puissances de l'Europe les motifs pour lesquels elle prenait les armes et le but de la guerre.

Ce but était exclusivement de mettre un terme au déplorable état de choses qui faisait de l'Orient une menace permanente pour la paix générale, et d'en prévenir le retour, en assurant aux populations Chrétiennes des conditions d'existence efficacement garanties contre l'arbitraire de l'Administration Turque.

Le Cabinet Impérial n'en a pas un instant dévié.

Au moment même de l'entrée en campagne, il posa les conditions auxquelles il accepterait la paix si la Porte la demandait avant le passage des Balkans. Ces conditions, communiquées en Juin, 1877, aux Cabinets de Londres et de Vienne, les plus directement intéressés dans la question, ont été publiées.

En les examinant aujourd'hui on se convaincra qu'elles ne diffèrent pas essentiellement de celles qui ont été arrêtées par le Congrès de Berlin.

Dans le cours de la guerre, pendant que nos armées étaient encore retenues sous Plevna, le Cabinet Impérial fit de nouveau connaître aux cours de Berlin et de Vienne les bases sur lesquelles il consentirait à traiter de la paix si le Sultan la demandait avant l'ouverture de la campagne d'hiver. Ces conditions étaient, à peu de chose près, les mêmes que celles indiquées au début de la guerre, et ce sont encore elles qui ont servi de bases préliminaires à la conclusion de l'armistice, alors que la marche victorieuse de nos troupes à travers les Balkans et l'anéantissement presque complet des armées Turques nous avaient conduits jusqu'à Andrinople, tandis que la victoire d'Avliar, la prise de Kars et les combats victorieux sous Erzeroum nous avaient assuré en Asie la même prépondérance militaire qu'en Europe.

Ainsi la pensée invariable du Cabinet Impérial se dégage nettement aussi bien des négociations qui ont précédé la guerre que de celles qui ont accompagné et suivi nos opérations militaires. Nous pourrions ajouter qu'elle est restée conséquente avec sa marche politique depuis vingt ans.

Le Cabinet Impérial n'a jamais désiré la destruction de l'Empire Ottoman. Quelque anormale que puisse être cette invasion Musulmane en Europe, n'ayant d'autre titre que la conquête, elle a jeté depuis plus de quatre siècles des racines trop profondes pour pouvoir disparaître sans produire un ébranlement que ni l'Orient ni l'Europe ne sont préparés à affronter.

Mais ce que le Cabinet Impérial voulait, c'était de mettre un terme définitif à l'inique oppression des Chrétiens, révoltante pour l'humanité, cause permanente de troubles pour la paix générale.

En arrêtant une seconde fois la marche victorieuse de ses armées, presque sous les murs de Constantinople, alors que toute résistance de la part des Turcs était brisée et que les droits de la guerre mettaient l'Empire Ottoman à sa discrétion, le Cabinet Impérial a prouvé une fois de plus que la Russie n'est pas moins fidèle à ses principes de constante modération qu'à ses traditions Chrétiennes.

Ses appels incessants à la co-opération des Grandes Puissances pendant tout le cours de cette crise ont démontré une fois de plus qu'elle n'entend nullement régler à elle seule les destinées de l'Orient dans des vues d'ambition exclusive, et qu'elle comprend parfaitement que le problème Oriental réside, non en Turquie, mais en Europe, et qu'il ne peut être résolu que dans l'intérêt de tous et par le concours de tous.

Mais le Cabinet Impérial voulait aussi que cette fois l'œuvre fût sérieuse et garantie, qu'elle ne retombât pas dans l'ornière des pénibles expédients du passé.

C'était uniquement dans ce but que le Russie s'imposait les lourdes charges de la guerre et ses sacrifices mêmes lui donnaient le droit incontestable de se prémunir, ainsi que les populations dont elle prenait la défense, contre le renouvellement de pareilles calamités.

Telle a été la pensée qui a dicté le Traité de San Stéfano. Le caractère préliminaire de ce Traité indiquait clairement qu'il n'avait pas pour but de trancher isolément les questions impliquées par la guerre. L'assurance spéciale donnée par le Cabinet Impérial aux Grandes Puissances, que toutes les questions d'un intérêt général Européen seraient déférées à une délibération Européenne, attestait qu'il n'avait nullement l'intention de se soustraire à la solidarité qui doit unir toutes les Grandes Puissances sur le terrain de l'Orient et à laquelle lui-même n'avait pas cessé de les convier depuis vingt ans.

Le Traité de San Stéfano avait deux buts : préciser les points spéciaux à régler entre les belligérants et qui n'avaient été indiqués qu'en principe dans les conditions préalables de paix ; lier irrévocablement la Turquie par un engagement obligatoire envers la Russie à l'exécution et au respect des bases sur lesquelles devait désormais reposer l'organisation à donner à la presqu'île des Balkans.

C'est dans les mêmes sentiments que le Cabinet Impérial a adhéré à la réunion d'un Congrès Européen afin de compléter et de rendre définitive l'œuvre de la pacification de l'Orient en lui assurant la sanction des Grandes Puissances. Il avait été le premier à suggérer l'idée d'une réunion des chefs de Cabinet afin d'élever le débat au niveau des grandes questions qui s'imposaient à la décision de l'Europe.

Jamais en effet occasion plus solennelle ne s'était offerte aux Grandes Puissances placées à la tête de la civilisation pour accomplir une de ces œuvres de sagesse et de conciliation qui marquent dans l'histoire en ouvrant au monde une ère de progrès pacifique.

L'histoire dira si le Congrès de Berlin a justifié cette attente, par la largeur de ses vues et la hauteur de ses délibérations, s'il a su se préserver de préoccupations égoïstes et de mesquines rivalités, si en un mot les sentiments généreux dont la Russie avait fait preuve en versant son sang pour la cause de l'humanité y ont trouvé de l'écho.

L'arbre sera jugé par ses fruits.

Pour le moment, nous nous bornerons à en constater les résultats immédiats.

La plus grande partie de la presqu'île des Balkans a été soustraite à la domination Turque.

L'indépendance de la Serbie et de la Roumanie a été déclarée, celle du Monténégro formellement reconnue. Ces Principautés ont été agrandies.

La Bosnie et l'Herzégovine sont mises à l'abri des abus de l'administration Turque. La Bulgarie au nord des Balkans est érigée en Principauté autonome sans autre lien que celui du tribut. Une grande partie de la Bulgarie au sud des Balkans sous le nom de Roumélie Orientale est dotée d'une autonomie administrative sous un Gouverneur Chrétien et sous le contrôle de l'Europe. Le reste des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe recevra des institutions à l'élaboration desquelles les délégués des Grandes Puissances prendront part et dont ils surveilleront l'application. Quant à la Russie en particulier, elle rentre en Europe en possession d'un territoire arraché à sa domination à la suite de la guerre de Crimée et qui la remet en contact avec le Danube. Elle acquiert en Asie des territoires, des positions stratégiques, et un port, qui seront pour elle des éléments de sécurité et de prospérité.

Ces résultats ne doivent être ni exagérés ni dépréciés.

Certes, ils sont loin de réaliser ce que la Russie aurait été en droit d'attendre après les sacrifices d'une guerre victorieuse, loin même de répondre aux intérêts de l'Orient et de l'Europe, qui auraient gagné à voir sortir de cette crise une solution plus complète et plus normale.

L'œuvre a bien des côtés défectueux. L'un des plus regrettables est la délimitation arbitraire des territoires d'après des considérations géographiques et politiques sans égard pour les nationalités. Le Cabinet Impérial avait proposé une base plus rationnelle et plus équitable: le principe de la majorité de la population, principe qui eût laissé toutes les races de l'Orient libres de se développer chacune dans sa circonscription naturelle. C'est à regret qu'il a dû l'abandonner.

Mais tout dépend de la manière dont les décisions du Congrès seront exécutées.

On ne saurait assez le répéter.

Les difficultés de la question d'Orient résident, non en Turquie, mais en Europe.

Quelles que soient les complications qu'elle présente, elles ne sauraient dépasser la mesure des forces dont disposent les Puissances civilisées. Ce qui a toujours paralysé leur action en Orient ce sont leurs défiances et leurs rivalités. Si elles se réunissent dans la commune pensée de consolider les germes créés par le Traité de Berlin afin d'en faire le point de départ d'un développement prospère des peuples de l'Orient, l'œuvre du Congrès peut être féconde et pour l'Orient et pour l'Europe.

Le Cabinet Impérial a poussé la conciliation jusqu'aux dernières limites afin de ramener ce concert des volontés qui est le gage de la paix générale et du salut de l'Orient Chrétien.

Sa tâche est désormais de veiller à ce que tant d'efforts ne restent pas stériles.

Sous ce rapport un grand résultat a été acquis. Le Traité de 1856, ce monument des passions politiques qui avaient amené une guerre injuste et une paix inique, cet acte qui avait imposé à la Russie une situation qu'une grande nation ne pouvait pas tolérer, qui pendant vingt-deux ans avait lié les mains à elle et à l'Europe, assure l'impunité au Gouvernement Turc et produit les désordres permanents cause de la guerre actuelle, le Traité de 1856, violé par tout le monde, renié même par ses auteurs, n'existe plus.

Les armes victorieuses de la Russie l'ont déchiré. Le Congrès de Berlin l'a effacé de l'histoire. La Russie a acquis le droit de veiller sur son œuvre. Elle ne la laissera pas réduire à néant.

Telle a été, d'ailleurs, l'issue de toutes nos guerres en Orient. Malgré tous nos succès, jamais notre tâche n'a pu être achevée. Toujours nous avons dû nous arrêter devant les inextricables difficultés de ce problème et devant la masse compacte des intérêts et des passions qu'il soulève. Mais chacune de nos guerres a été un pas de plus vers le but final, et c'est ainsi qu'a été conduit le sanglant mais glorieux sillon que nos traditions ont tracé dans l'histoire et qui doit aboutir à l'accomplissement de notre mission nationale : délivrance de l'Orient Chrétien.

Si incomplète qu'elle soit, l'œuvre du Congrès de Berlin marque un nouveau pas dans cette voie, un pas important quoique péniblement conquis. Il ne reste qu'à la consolider et à la développer. Ce sera la tâche d'un prochain avenir.

L'Empire Ottoman a fait un nouveau bail avec l'Europe Chrétienne et civilisée. S'il entre franchement dans la route qui lui est ouverte en exécutant scrupuleusement les clauses qui garantissent l'autonomie de ses populations Chrétiennes, une existence prospère peut lui être assurée. La Russie, qui compte sur son vaste territoire des millions de sujets Musulmans et qui protége leur religion et leur sécurité, loin de le menacer, peut devenir sa meilleure alliée. En cas contraire, il aura signé sa propre condamnation.

Le Cabinet Impérial poursuivra ses efforts pour le maintenir dans cette voie. Il continuera à associer l'Europe à cette tâche d'intérêt commun. Il persistera à la remplir pour ce qui le concerne.

Dans tous les cas, la Russie a noblement, vaillamment accompli ce qu'elle considérait comme son devoir. Elle n'a marchandé ni ses sacrifices, ni ses avantages. Unie au Souverain dans un sentiment d'absolu dévouement, elle a puisé dans cet accord indissoluble une force invincible qui lui a assuré la victoire et qui l'aidera à réparer ses pertes. Cette union dans le devoir fait les grandes peuples.

Ce n'est donc pas en vain que le sang de ces braves soldats aura coulé sur les champs de bataille de la Bulgarie et de l'Arménie, sous les remparts de Plevna et de Kars, dans les passes de Schipka et les plaines de la Roumélie; ce n'est pas en vain que la nation Russe aura porté sans murmurer le fardeau de la guerre et, du plus grand au plus petit, fourni tant d'exemples d'abnégation inspirés par la foi religieuse, le patriotisme et l'humanité. Ce n'est pas en vain que, modérée dans la victoire, elle aura subordonné les droits de la guerre aux intérêts majeurs de la paix générale et de la solidarité Européene.

Ces sacrifices ont porté et porteront fruit.

Des millions d'hommes ont été rendus à la liberté, un monde nouveau, un monde Chrétien, a été appelé à la vie et placé sur la route de la civilisation. La lumière à été portée dans les profondeurs les plus ténébreuses de ce monde oriental, qui recélait tant de misères inconnues, tant de souffrances inouïes, et dont l'enfantement douloureux, entravé pendant des siècles, n'est plus aujourd'hui qu'une question de temps.

Si cet enfantement n'est pas encore complet, si des restrictions regrettables produites par les défiances, les préventions, les rivalités politiques, les calculs égoïstes des intérêts materiels et des luttes de partis, l'entravent encore; s'il reste beaucoup à faire pour l'achever, beaucoup a été fait. La Russie a la conscience d'y avoir

puissamment contribué par son initiative généreuse et résolu autant que par sa modération.

Elle a la conviction qu'elle est placée dans le courant des grandes lois qui régissent l'histoire, et que, malgré les obstacles momentanés qu'y apportent les passions, les misères et les défaillances des hommes, l'humanité n'en poursuit pas moins sa marche invariable vers le but tracé par la Providence.

Le Congrès de Berlin à été une étape dans cette voie laborieuse. En l'envisageant à ce point de vue, la Russie peut puiser dans le passé la confiance nécessaire pour l'avenir. ("Messager Officiel.").

Translation of the above Article from the Russian text.

THE Treaty of Berlin has been ratified.

The time has now come for the consideration of this European instrument which crowns the war undertaken by Russia, not for interested motives or material advantages, nor for ambitious political schemes, but out of a feeling overpowering all extraneous incentives out of a feeling of Christianity—a feeling of humanity—that feeling with which every honest man is imbued in the sight of an appalling evil.

The Russian nation, and the heroic Russian troops, who have displayed so much self-abnegation, may justly now give themselves an account of the results of the sacrifices made by them. In order, however, to arrive at a correct appreciation of these results, which would be devoid of all passion and prejudice, and of all mistrust, it is necessary to trace recent events in their consecutive development, commencing from the causes out of which they sprang, and pursuing them to their final issue.

From the commencement of disturbances in the East, the Imperial Cabinet foresaw that they were only the commencement of serious complications. The Herzegovinian insurrection, insignificant in itself, was that very drop which filled the cup. Our Government, striving to avert every collision in the East and in Europe, undertook the initiative of negotiations with the Vienna Cabinet, which was the most interested in the matter, and expressed to it its entire readiness to support any combination which should be devised under the sanction of the Great Powers for allaying the disturbances and averting a crisis.

The results of this action were the attempted conciliation by the Consular Commission and the Note of Count Andrassy of the 30th December, 1875, which was accepted by all the Powers. The Note of Count Andrassy contained a whole series of reforms and ameliorations which the Cabinets, Signatories to the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, recommended to the Porte with the object of establishing peace and order, and with a view to the fulfilment by the Porte of its obligations in respect to the Christian subjects of the Sultan.

But all these good intentions led to no result owing to the complete absence of guarantees. Possessing no material safeguards the insurgents refused to lay down their arms, while at the same time the Porte declared that so long as they did not submit, it was not able to execute the reforms recognized by it in principle. The Turkish Government went even further than the Note of Count Andrassy, and promulgated a programme which comprised broader and more liberal institutions. But all these reforms on paper, devoid of all serious sanction, failed to inspire any confidence in the people whose patience had already so long been tried.

The position was thus a painful one, out of which it was necessary to find an issue. In the interests of pacification it was necessary to take one step beyond that at which the European Cabinets had ventured. It was only the authority of the whole of Europe that could supply the necessary guarantee for the contemplated reforms, make them real, and inspire the Christians with confidence. Such was the object of the Berlin Memorandum (April 1876). Drawn up under the approval of Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy, it was communicated to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Berlin for concomitant consideration. It contained the principle of united action on the part of the whole of Europe, which was to guarantee the reforms proposed by the European Cabinets. In the opinion of the Russian Cabinet, this united action was to consist of a demonstration of the confederate fleets before Constantinople, along the shores of European and Asiatic Turkey, as also in the ports where peace and security were not well established. The object of the demonstration was, firstly, to compel the Porte to fulfil the demands of Europe; and, secondly, to appease the apprehensions of the Christian populations and to insure their safety.

Though accepted by a majority of the European Cabinets, the proposal met with

opposition on the part of the English Government, which considered that measures of coercion were incompatible with the Treaty of Paris, which guaranteed independence to the Porte in its internal administration.

From this moment the course of events flowed to an issue which could have been easily foreseen. The strained position of affairs on the Servian and Montenegrin borders led to an open rupture between these Principalities and the Porte. It was to be apprehended that the conflagration would spread over the whole of the East.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of the situation, the Russian Cabinet did not cease its endeavours to unite all the Great Powers for a concerted course of action, the necessity of which made itself daily more felt. With this object the Russian Cabinet proposed in London and Vienna an allied military demonstration—Russia in Bulgaria, Austria in Bosnia, and the European squadrons at Constantinople, and generally in the waters of the Levant. Owing to the foregoing and similar causes this proposal was not accepted.

The Constantinople Conference, which assembled on the basis laid down by the London Cabinet, was the last attempt to maintain peace. Europe, in its own interests (which were coincident with the preservation of peace), determined on intervention in the internal affairs of Turkey, though only in a moral sense. It was proposed to the Porte that, conjointly with it, a comprehensive series of reforms should be discussed, the object of which was to reconcile the sovereign rights of the Sultan with conditions favourable for the prosperity of his Christian subjects. At the same time material guarantees were not forgotten, which, while not possessing a compulsory character contrary to Treaties, appeared sufficient for a practical realization of reforms. The Porte replied by a fresh refusal.

Meanwhile the war with Servia and Montenegro followed its course. The murders committed in Bulgaria, which excited the indignation of the whole of Europe, proved what proportions this cruel conflict could assume under Mussulman fanaticism.

After all the exertions made by the Imperial Cabinet to avert such a lamentable state of things, it could not remain a passive spectator of events. The struggle going forward in the Balkan Peninsula affected too closely the interests of Russia, both as a great European Power conterminous with Turkey, and as a country allied in religion and race with the Christian subjects of the Porte. It became fully evident that so long as the Turkish Government, taking its stand on the Treaty of 1856, remained convinced of its complete impunity, it was impossible to obtain any reforms from the Turkish Administration, which was only capable of acts of violence. It was, therefore, necessary either to become reconciled to the complete suppression of the Christian population of the Balkan Peninsula, which was incompatible with the interests of Europe, and revolting from a humanitarian point of view, or to remain in expectation of periodical outbursts dangerous to the general peace.

The Imperial Cabinet considered itself unable to tolerate such a state of things. It had once already occasion to arrest, by means of a determined Ultimatum, the advance of Turkish troops, which were ready to renew in Servia murders similar to those committed in Bulgaria.

If the decisions of the Conference of Constantinople were to remain without any binding force on Turkey, the resistance of the latter to the general wishes of Europe would only have become more decided.

Under these circumstances, His Majesty the Emperor ordered the mobilization of a certain portion of his Army on the southern confines of his Empire. In view, however, of the failure of the Conference of Constantinople, His Majesty ordered inquiries to be made as to the opinions of those Cabinets which had participated in the Conference as to the course they purposed to pursue in view of the refusal of the Porte to adopt the counsels and wishes of Europe.

To this question no definite answers were received. It was not difficult to perceive that the European Governments were unwilling to have recourse to any energetic measures, and were disposed to trust to time and the benevolence of the Porte, as also to an exclusively moral pressure on the part of the European Cabinets.

Even under ordinary circumstances such docility would only have had the effect of confirming the impression that Europe had bound its hands by the Treaty of 1856, and that they could with the greatest safety disregard its decisions, and adhere to the old order of things. But considering the state of matters, the impending fierce struggle and excitement of passion and fanaticism, it was to be expected that the weakness displayed by Europe would not only entail a continuation for an indefinite period of the former system of administrative terror, but that violence and misrule

would attain still greater proportions, and terminate either in the entire extirpation of all the Christians or in their extermination.

A last attempt was made in London, which ought to have been a serious warning to the Porte. The Protocol drawn up on this occasion was intended to support the solicitude displayed by all the European Powers at the Conference of Constantinople in Turkish reform, to record the promises of the Turkish Government, to enumerate all those points under which it had undertaken certain obligations, and to invite it honestly to adopt the reforms indicated by the Powers. In the contrary case, the Powers recognizing the existing order of things as incompatible with general interests, should of their own accord have devised means for securing amelioration of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Porte.

The Imperial Cabinet at the same time added a declaration to the effect that if the above-mentioned Protocol were accepted by the Porte, if peace were concluded with Montenegro, if the Turkish Government showed by its deeds its determination to execute the reforms, and if there were no recurrence of murders, Russia would, in such case, willingly enter into negotiations with Representatives of the Sultan as regards demobilization and disarmament.

The insufficient firmness in the tone of the Protocol did not, of course, escape the attention of the Porte. The Powers would not decide to exercise any pressure on the Porte, or to adopt any common action in regard to the Turkish Government; they confined themselves merely to a reservation of the right of devising some measures for the improvement of the condition of the Christians. The London Cabinet, moreover, thought it necessary to declare that if the Protocol would not produce a general pacification, that it would in such case be null and void. Under such circumstances it was impossible to expect that the Porte would treat the Protocol with greater deference than the previous declarations of the Powers. His Imperial Majesty then, considering it impossible to remain any longer in a position which was neither that of peace nor war, which outraged the feeling of every Russian, which imposed burdens on Russia without any corresponding compensation and without any visible results, determined to take on himself the application of compulsory measures, without which it was impossible to find an issue. The European Cabinets were, by the Emperor's orders, made acquainted with the reasons which induced him to take up arms, and with the objects of the war.

The general object was exclusively to put an end to the lamentable state of things owing to which the East served as a constant menace to general peace, and to avert such a state of things for the future by affording the Christian subjects of the Sultan such guarantees as would effectually secure them against the tyranny of the Turkish administration.

The Imperial Cabinet never lost sight of that object. At the very commencement of military operations the conditions were laid down under which Russia would conclude peace, if Turkey would sue for it before the Balkans were crossed.

Those conditions were communicated in June 1877 to the Cabinets of London and Vienna, the most interested in the question, and made generally public. Read at present it is not difficult to become convinced that they do not differ materially from the decisions of the Congress of Berlin. During the war, and while the Russian troops were still before Plevna, the Imperial Cabinet communicated to the Cabinets of Berlin and Vienna the bases on which Russia might commence peace negotiations, if the Sultan sought them, before the commencement of the winter campaign. Our demands were then nearly identical with those which had been made at the commencement of hostilities; they served as a foundation for the conclusion of the armistice, even after the victorious Russian troops had stepped over the Balkans and advanced to Adrianople, after completely discomforting the Turkish forces, and in Asia had reached Erzeroum after capturing Kars.

In this manner the fundamental and leading idea of the policy of the Imperial Cabinet becomes of itself apparent both through the negotiations which preceded the war, and through those which were conducted both during the progress of military operations and after the same. It may be said that this idea was in complete conformity with the course of our policy pursued during the last twenty years. Our policy has never had for its object the destruction of the Ottoman Empire. Although this Mussulman irruption into Europe presents in reality an abnormal phenomenon, which has no other justification than the force of arms, it has during the course of its presence of four centuries taken too deep a root to be driven out without producing general commotion in the East and in Europe. The Russian Cabinet always exclusively kept in view the necessity of terminating in a decisive manner that which

is so revolting from a humanitarian point of view, the persecution of the Christians, which has always been a constant source of disturbances and danger to the general peace.

At the time when all opposition on the part of the Turks had become already impossible, and the Turkish Government found itself obliged to succumb to the results of war, the Russian army again halted on its victorious advance under the gates of Constantinople, and there again demonstrated that the Russian Government was as firm in its principles of moderation as in its Christian sympathies.

By its incessant appeals during the present crisis to the co-operation of the Great Powers, the Imperial Cabinet demonstrated that it was in no degree inclined to subordinate the decision of the Eastern question to views of personal ambition; that the question must be decided in Europe, and not in Turkey, by all the Powers, and in accordance with general interests. At the same time, however, it was desirable that the results on this occasion should be effectually guaranteed in order that the efforts expended should not again merely take the shape of bitter experience. Having unsheathed the sword for the attainment of these objects, and passed through an obstinate struggle, Russia had certainly the incontestable right of securing herself, as well as the populations which she had taken under her protection, against a recurrence of similar calamities in the future.

Such were the leading incentives which guided the conclusion of the San Stefano Treaty. The preliminary character of the instrument clearly proved that we did not contemplate to solve the question alone. The constant declarations of our Cabinet that everything concerning Europe should be submitted to general consideration sufficiently prove our determination to remain in the matter of the Eastern question solidary with the Great Powers—a course which we have endeavoured to pursue during the last twenty years.

The Treaty of San Stefano had two objects in view—to determine the specially military points which had only been generally indicated in the preliminary peace negotiations, and to bind Turkey to Russia by certain obligations in respect to the bases on which the organization of the Balkan Peninsula was henceforward to be established. Actuated by a desire to act in concert with Europe, the Russian Cabinet agreed to the convocation of a Congress, in order to consolidate the pacification of the East by the sanction of the Great Powers. It was the first to support the idea of a meeting of the Representatives of the Cabinets; with the view of giving the question greater signification and the decisions of Europe more binding force. In reality, never during the whole course of the existence of Europe did a more solemn occasion present itself to civilized nations for the creation, by a wise and conciliatory work, of a new era in the annals of the peaceful development of humanity. History will declare how far the Berlin Congress justified these expectations, how broad were its views, and what was the level of its deliberations; it will show whether those who took part in the proceedings were able to divest themselves of egotistical solicitude and envious rivalry; it will, in one word, disclose to what extent the magnanimous feelings of Russia, sealed with Russian blood, found response in the Assembly.

The tree will be judged by its fruits. We shall now confine ourselves to an exposition of the more immediate results of the Congress.

The Turks have lost their supremacy over the greater portion of the Balkan Peninsula. The independence of Servia and Roumania was declared, and the independence of Montenegro has been formally confirmed. The frontiers of these Principalities have been extended. Bosnia and the Herzegovina have been rescued from the control of Turkish administration, and delivered from its misrule. Bulgaria, north of the Balkans, has been organized in the form of an autonomous Principality, bound only by tribute. The greater portion of Southern Bulgaria, under the appellation of Eastern Roumelia, has been united in one province with an administrative autonomy and a Christian governor, under the control of Europe. The remaining provinces of Turkey will receive institutions in the creation and application of which Delegates of the Great Powers will take part. As regards Russia especially, she has regained in Europe that portion of territory of which she was deprived after the Crimean war, and she has consequently again access to the Danube. In Asia Minor she acquired new territory with a harbour, and important strategical positions, which secure her safety and development in the future.

It would be inaccurate to exaggerate the signification of these results, while on the other hand it would be equally unjust to depreciate them.

They are in reality far from those which Russia had a right to expect after such sacrifices and such a glorious war; they do not even fully coincide with the interests

of the East and of Europe, which would have been gainers by a more radical and normal solution of the crisis. The Berlin Treaty has undoubtedly its weak sides. The point most subject to criticism consists in the fact that the delimitations were founded on geographical and political considerations, with a complete disregard of the ethnographical element. The Imperial Cabinet proposed a juster and more rational basis for delimitation—the principle of nationality of the majority of the population—a principle which would have afforded complete liberty for the development of all the populations within their natural limits. Unfortunately this principle had to be abandoned.

Nevertheless everything depends on the manner in which the decisions of the Congress will be carried into effect.

It must again be repeated, that the difficulties which surround the solution of the Eastern question are not to be found in Turkey, but in Europe. Whatever may be the complication they present, they naturally cannot exceed the measure of strength which is at the disposal of the civilized nations of Europe. But the influence of Europe in the East has always been paralyzed by feelings of mutual mistrust and rivalry between the Cabinets. If the Powers were to unite in a general effort for the consolidation of the germs created by the Congress with a view of rendering them a point of departure for the further progressive development of the populations of the East, the work of the Congress would not prove fruitless either for Europe or the East. The Imperial Cabinet having become convinced, by long experience, that solidarity and concerted action are the sole guarantees for the felicity and peace of the whole Christian East, has displayed extreme pacific tendencies. Its present problem will consist in watching that all its past efforts should not be lost.

In this respect we have attained essential results. The Treaty of 1856—this monument of political passions which called forth an unjust war and a similar peace—this instrument which placed Russia in a position unworthy of a Great Power, and which bound both her and Europe during the course of twenty-two years, guaranteed complete immunity to the Turkish Government, and was the source of continual disturbance, which gave origin to the present war; this Treaty, which was infringed by all, and which was repudiated by its authors, exists no longer. The victorious Russian armies have torn it to pieces; the Berlin Congress has blotted it out of history. Russia has acquired full right to watch over the results of her efforts. She will not allow them to be destroyed.

That which is now taking place always marked the issue of our former wars in the East. Notwithstanding all our successes we were never able to solve the problem radically. We were always obliged to stop short before the insurmountable difficulties of the task, before a solid wall of interests and passions which our successes called forth. But with each successive war we advanced a step further towards the attainment of our ultimate goal. This is the sanguinary and glorious feature which is to be traced throughout our history, and which must inevitably bring us to the fulfilment of our historical mission—the emancipation of the Christians of the East.

However incomplete the results of the Berlin Congress, they still present an advanced step along the former path—a step which is an important one, though it has been accomplished at a heavy price. It is only necessary to render it secure, with a view to its development. Such is the problem of the immediate future.

The Ottoman Empire has entered into a new phase in regard to its relations to Christian and civilized Europe. If she will enter on the path which opens before her in good faith and with an intention to fulfil to the letter the conditions which guarantee autonomy to her Christian subjects, a happy future is in store for her. Russia, whose own territory contains many million Mahommedan subjects, whose religion she respects and whose prosperity she ensures, will not menace Turkey, but, on the contrary, may become her best ally. In the contrary case, the Porte will sign her own death warrant. The Imperial Cabinet will not cease to use every effort to maintain her in that path. It will continue to draw Europe to the universal work, and on its own part will strictly fulfil the obligations incumbent on it.

In any case Russia has fulfilled her task honestly and manfully. She did not make a traffic of her sacrifices nor of her successes. Bound to her monarch by the closest ties of loyalty, she derived from that indissoluble alliance an invincible strength which secured victories to her, and which can compensate her for her losses. These ties of duty are characteristic only of great nations.

Thus it was not in vain that the blood of those heroic soldiers was shed on the fields of battle in Bulgaria and Armenia, on the walls of Plevna and Kars, in the Shipka defiles, and in the valleys of Roumelia; it was not in vain that the Russian

nation stoically bore the burden of the war, and from the lowest to the highest exhibited so many proofs of their self-sacrifice, deriving their strength from religion, patriotism, and feelings of humanity; and, lastly, it was not in vain that the nation, modest in its victories, subordinated the rights of the conqueror to the higher interests of a general peace and the solidarity of nations.

The sacrifices have already borne fruit, and will bear still more in the future.

Millions of people have received their liberty; a new world—a Christian world—has been called into existence and directed on the path of civilization. A new light has illumined the gloomiest depths of the Eastern Empire, which concealed in itself so much hidden distress, so much unspeakable suffering, the healing of which, delayed during the course of many centuries, is at the present time nothing more than a question of time.

If all is not yet done, if mistrust and forebodings, political envy, egotistical calculations of a material character and party faction have been involved in the work, it must nevertheless be confessed that much has been done. Russia can pride herself with the consciousness that she assisted not a little in bringing the general work to a successful termination by her magnanimity and decided initiative, and subsequently by her moderation. She may rest assured that in the annals of history her work will occupy a glorious page, and that notwithstanding temporary obstacles, created by the passions, failings, and weakness of individuals, humanity still advances towards those undeviating aims which have been ordained for it by Providence.

The Berlin Congress is but a repose, a halt on this difficult path. Estimating it from this point of view, Russia finds in the present hope for the future.

No. 260.

M. Barthélemi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

Londres, le $\frac{2}{14}$ Août, 1878.

M. le Marquis,

COMME vous devez quitter Londres demain et que je ne puis compter sur l'avantage de vous voir jusque là, je m'empresse de vous faire savoir que je viens de recevoir un télégramme du Ministère Impérial qui annonce que l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople est chargé d'entrer en communication avec le Gouvernement Ottoman et l'Ambassadeur Britannique à l'effet de s'entendre sur une retraite simultanée de Constantinople des troupes Russes et de vos vaisseaux de guerre.

Je suis chargé à mon tour de vous faire part à quel point il serait désirable que les instructions qui seraient adressées par votre Excellence à Sir A. Layard soient conçues dans un sens qui puisse faciliter et accélérer une entente aussi désirable.

Comme j'ai eu l'occasion de vous en parler tout dernièrement il m'appartient aujourd'hui de revenir auprès de vous sur ce sujet et de vous faire part de ce désir amical et conciliant de mon Gouvernement.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 261.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 746.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 13, 1878.*

SULTAN told Saudison to-day that he entirely approved my Memorandum about reforms required for the country, and that he intends to write me a letter thanking me for it, and expressing his resolution to carry out as soon as possible the suggestions contained in it, which he intends as a kind of pledge to Her Majesty's Government. His Majesty entreats Her Majesty's Government to help Turkey in obtaining a loan of 6,000,000*l.* sterling, without which, in the present penury of the Treasury, nothing can be done. The want of money is very urgent. Sultan has given his consent to the Agreement about legislative powers in Cyprus, and I hope to sign immediately.

No. 262.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 147.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1878.*

SOME misapprehension having arisen at Berlin as to meaning of M. de Giers' Circular, he begs me to point out that he proposed the date of 13th September for all four Commissions destined to work out the various boundaries under the Treaty of Berlin. The Commission for which he now suggests the 1st September is that charged only with the elaboration of the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 263.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 14, 1878.*

CARATHÉODORY PASHA has received instructions from the Porte which he believes will enable him to conclude an arrangement with the Austrian Government, as the demand that a term should be fixed for the occupation and that the administration of Bosnia should continue under the Porte is no longer insisted on.

He has not yet been able to communicate these instructions to Count Andrassy.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 144, as to time allowed for labours of Commission on Eastern Roumelia, inform M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government would have been inclined to read Article XVIII of the Treaty as dating three months from ratification; but have no objection to the other interpretation if the other Powers are content.

No 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 14, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Government having suggested that Commission of Eastern Roumelia should meet at Constantinople on the 13th September, I inquired whether they thought that date soon enough, inasmuch as under the Treaty work of Commission must be finished by the 3rd November. M. de Giers replies that he will take orders of the Emperor whether Commission might not meet on the 1st September, but that he understands Article XVIII of Treaty as giving the delay of three months from meeting of the Commission, and not from date of the exchange of ratifications.

I have now said that Her Majesty's Government would have been inclined to take the latter view, but have no objection to M. de Giers' interpretation of the Article if the other Powers are content.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Barthélemi.

Dear M. Barthélemi, *Foreign Office, August 14, 1878.*

I HAVE to thank you for your letter of to-day, informing me that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to enter into negotiations with Sir H. Layard on the question of the withdrawal of the troops now before that city.

I may add that instructions have been sent to Sir H. Layard in the sense which I

[*] Similar telegrams were sent to Berlin, Paris, Rome, and Vienna.

explained to you yesterday, namely, that the British fleet would go to Gallipoli as soon as he had been informed that the Russian army was retiring from Constantinople, and that when he received the information that it had withdrawn beyond the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, our ships would pass the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 452. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1878.

I HAVE to state to you that I approve the language you held to the Turkish Ambassador as reported in your despatch No. 536, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, and I have to request your Excellency to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government agree with his Excellency that there should be no delay in constituting the different Commissions decided upon by the Treaty of Berlin, and that it would be desirable that steps should be immediately taken for putting into effect the decision of the Congress, by appointing Commissioners for the definitive tracings of the frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 453. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1878.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve your proceedings as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 546, Confidential, of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 269.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 435.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 144 of the 9th instant, in which you state that M. de Giers understands the period of three months given by Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin for the completion of the labours of the Commission on the organization of Eastern Roumelia, as counting from the meeting of the Commission, and not from the date of the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty, I have to instruct you to inform the Imperial Government that Her Majesty's Government would have been inclined to read the words of Article XVIII in the latter sense; but that they have no objection to the interpretation placed upon it by M. de Giers, provided that the other Powers interested are content to accept it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 270.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 97. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, July* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that for some time public tranquillity is far from being satisfactory.

About two months ago robberies began to be committed in the town; some time after murderous attacks were perpetrated in the vicinity, and quite lately waylaying on the Erzeroum road has taken larger proportions.

This state of things is to be attributed to the inefficiency of the police, and to the slackness of the Medjlisses in investigating cases and making examples of the culprits.

A deputation of leading Mussulmans and Christians waited, a few days ago, on the Governor-General, and called his attention to the unsafe condition of the town and of the surrounding country.

I took myself a similar step this morning, when Yussouf Pasha told me that he was doing all he could, but that the police is inadequate, and that according to the regulations now in force he has no control on the proceedings of the Courts of Justice.

It must be owned that things might have been worse.

Instead of 150 zaptiehs, which is the regulation number for Trebizond and immediate vicinity, there are only 80, at a time of unusual disorder. They are paid 135 piastres, caimés (8*s.*), a month, and often do not receive regularly their salary. It cannot be expected that men thus situated should resist bribery.

Lists are opened for the inscription of zaptiehs, but no one having answered the call, the Governor-General has been under the necessity to order that one or two zaptiehs should be spared from each principal station in the province, where they are as scarce as here, to reinforce by about 30 men the police at Trebizond.

There was here, for several years, an exceptionally capable Captain of Police, named Hussein Bey, who was the dread of the malefactors in and round Trebizond, and whose presence here was alone sufficient to keep them quiet. Two or three months ago he was under specious pretext, but it would seem, owing to gratuitous ill-feeling against him on the part of his immediate Chief, the Colonel of Police, sent to Rizeh, in spite of the protests of the whole inhabitants of Trebizond, whether Mussulmans or Christians. I had spoken myself at the time to the Governor-General on the subject, and being convinced that Hussein Bey's return would in a great measure tend to ameliorate the state of things at Trebizond, I have urged on the Pasha the necessity of recalling him. Yussouf Pasha promised to confer on the matter with the Colonel of Police of the vilayet.

While extenuating the conduct of the Medjlisses, the Governor-General does not deny that it is far from being what he should desire. He mentioned to me that as accused parties were often too hastily released, he had ordered a register to be kept of the prisoners liberated, and of the grounds on which they were set at liberty.

The discontent is general, and if no radical changes can be made at the present moment, some provisional measures may be resorted to in order to satisfy the legitimate complaints of the public, which is under the impression that better police arrangements can be made by increasing the pay of the zaptiehs, and that great benefit can be derived from the superseding of one or two members of the Medjlisses by more fitting persons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 271.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 70. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, (1) stating what modifications the Cretan Christians desire in the Organic Law; and (2) the strong feeling existing among them in favour of Crete being placed under British protection, or, failing that, of its being made a Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 271.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, August 1, 1878.

Sir,

IN answer to your Excellency's telegram of the 28th instant, the receipt of which I had the honour to acknowledge in my last despatch, I beg to say that, after consulting confidentially with two influential Christians, than whom no better exponents of the opinions and views of the moderate section of the Cretan Christians could be found, I am in a position to suggest the following proposals :—

That the future government of Crete be based on the Organic Law of 1867, with the modifications introduced therein, as recommended by the Christian moiety of the General Assemblies of 1876 and 1877, with, however, the following changes substituted for or added to those recommendations :—

(1.) That the Vali be a Christian, chosen after consultation with the Powers, and appointed for a period of five years.

The principle involved in this proposal has already been admitted by the appointment of the present Christian Governor-General.

(2.) That the posts of Mushaver and Mouavin be abolished.

These posts were created by the Organic Law. It has been found, in practice, that the Mussulman Mushaver, or Counsellor, alone possessed any influence; for, if his Christian colleague asserted his independence he was speedily removed, and for many years the post of Christian Counsellor has been occupied by persons beneath consideration. If the office of Mushaver was devised for the purpose of limiting the power of the Vali, or of offering him advice, these duties are supposed to be performed by the Administrative Council, and the presence of Mushavers is superfluous. The same remarks apply to the office of Mouavin, whether as attached to the four Mutessarifs or the thirteen Kaïmakams.

The object of the late Grand Vizier, Aali Pasha, in creating such a multiplicity of posts in Crete, seems to have been to have as many of the natives as possible interested in the maintenance of the existing system of Government. The patronage thus vested in the Vali has been degraded to a system of bribery, as persons were rarely selected for their fitness, but in consideration of their so-called services to the Government, generally of an ignoble kind, such as spying and informing. The better class of Cretans rarely held these appointments, for they could not do so and retain their independence of character.

(3.) That instead of the petty Tribunals for the administration of justice in the Kazas, "Juges de Paix" be appointed by the Vali.

The effect of these petty tribunals has been to encourage litigation rather than to further the ends of justice. A Court formed of a President and four Judges is quite out of proportion to the interests involved in the small questions brought before them. It would be more to the advantage of the peasantry that a single "Juge de Paix" be appointed, whose duties would be to promote reconciliation between litigants, and summarily to dispose of cases not exceeding 500 piastres in value.

(4.) That all functionaries be acquainted with the Greek language.

This proviso requires no comment.

(5.) That Iradés, whether emanating from the Sultan or from the Grand Vizier, have no force if they are in opposition to the established law.

The obtaining Iradés was a common device with the Valis when they wished to evade the carrying out of a law. These Iradés were frequently at variance with the simplest elements of justice, and arbitrarily set aside a law, on the faith of which merchants had made contracts or advanced money.

(6.) That the regular troops be kept, in time of peace, only in the fortified places on the sea-coast, Canea, Candia, Rethymo, Grabusa, Spina-Longa, Suda, &c.

An analogous arrangement having been made in the case of Eastern Roumelia, it might appear applicable also to Crete. The establishment of block-houses in the mountain ranges, six of the most important being garrisoned by regular troops, was found superfluous in time of peace, and when an insurrection was apprehended they were evacuated and dismantled by the insurgents. Lastly, that the execution of the Organic Law as finally modified and established be guaranteed by the great Powers or by England.

The last recommendation has already been admitted in principle in other parts of the Empire, and it is one to which the Cretans attach a paramount importance. They did not venture to put it forward at the time when they proposed the modifications in

the Organic Law, because they knew it would be supremely distasteful to the authorities.

The seven proposals enumerated above I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency on the 30th ultimo, and I added that a summary of the modifications of the Organic Law (as recommended by the Christian moiety of the General Assemblies of 1876 and 1877) was to be found in my despatch of the 28th May, 1876, and a translation of them in my despatch of the 5th June, 1876. I beg to state that the translation, done also into English, appears in the Parliamentary Blue-book, "Turkey," No 3 (1876), page 284.

With reference to the system of voting, as recommended in the modifications of the Organic Law, my two coadjutors have suggested to me that it would be both simpler and fairer for all the people to vote for their representatives without reference to their religion, and both communities would thus secure a share of power in proportion to their relative numbers.

The Christian Deputies of the General Assembly had recommended that the President of the Court of Appeal sitting in Canea, and the Presidents of the Courts of First Instance and of Commerce sitting at Canea, Rethymo, and Candia should be Christians. This recommendation was based on the assumption that the Vali would be a Mahommedan. As he is now a Christian, it would appear unnecessary to make any distinction as to religion in nominating to these posts. The office, however, of President of the Court of Appeal, is one of so much importance, and the choice of properly qualified candidates so limited, that the appointment of a foreigner with a liberal salary would be conferring a great boon on the entire community. The pay of one of the Counsellors (800*l.* Turkish a-year), recommended for suppression, would almost suffice for the additional expense. The presence of a Judge of acknowledged standing could not fail to exercise a powerful influence on the inferior Judges, whose judgments would often be referred to him. No expense would seem extravagant if it served to bring about a purer judicial system.

While on this subject I may mention that it would give great satisfaction to the community if the Civil and Criminal Codes of Law were speedily completed on the basis of French law, which is that best understood, regard being had, in their application to this island, to local usage.

There is a strong feeling amongst all classes, and in none more than the official class, against a paper currency, which should be speedily withdrawn from circulation.

When a general amnesty is proclaimed I venture to suggest that a disarmament of the insurgents should not be attempted, the prohibition to carry arms in public being alone insisted on. At the close of the last insurrection the Government disclaimed any intention of disarming the population, but afterwards instituted a vexatious inquisition for arms, which was only partially successful.

Neither should they, in my opinion, demand arrears of taxes due since the outbreak of the present Rebellion. It might, on the contrary, appear advisable to remit the payment of tithes in the case of those villages, whether Christian or Mussulman, which have most suffered during the late troubles.

In order to do something for promoting the prosperity of Crete, the promise made in the Organic Law that a certain proportion of the revenue should be devoted to public works and education ought not to be allowed to remain a dead-letter. It might not be considered an excessive outlay if half the surplus of the revenue receipts, after the payment of all charges for the civil administration, were applied to these objects.

Though the taxation to which the Cretans are liable is confessedly small, and no complaint has been put forward on this head by the General Assembly, there are yet two or three taxes most vexatious in their nature, and most unjust in their incidence, the remission of which would greatly benefit the poor Mussulman inhabitants, of the maritime towns. I refer to the taxes on porterage, fish, and dyeing. The porters are almost exclusively Arabs from the opposite coast of Africa, who by this tax are mulcted of 25 per cent. of their earnings. The fish tax amounts to 20 per cent., and weighs heavily both on the poor fishermen and on the lower classes, who are chiefly Mussulmans. The trade licence on dyeing affects comparatively few, but those few are very poor, and as both the dye and the stuff dyed have already paid duty, the State might be supposed to have got all its due. The two former imposts go towards defraying the expenses of the municipalities in Crete, the main revenues of which are derived from a house tax, which alone, impartially levied, should suffice for all expenses. But while it is rigidly collected from Christian and the poor Mussulman

inhabitants, the rich Moslem proprietors evade payment. If the members of the General Assembly failed to call attention to these oppressive taxes, it is probably because they did not press heavily on their own community.

I am desired to add that, in accordance with the principle that each district should be governed by a Mutessarif of the same religion as the majority of the inhabitants belonging to it, Candia and Rethymo ought each to have a Christian Governor, for though the majority in those towns is Mussulman, in the entire districts it is Christian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 271.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, August 5, 1878.

Sir,

THE modifications explained in the preceding despatch, coupled with those recommended by the General Assemblies of 1876 and 1877, are the improvements which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the bulk of the Christian inhabitants of Crete desire to see introduced into the Organic Law. They, however, do not hesitate to let it be known that they only accept the Organic Law because it is the best arrangement which, under the circumstances, it may be possible to obtain, and that, in accepting it, they regard it as only a provisional arrangement. For a definitive form of Government, they tell me that they desire that their island should be placed under English protection, or, if that be impossible, that it should be erected into a Principality on the model of Samos.

Since dispatching my telegram of the 30th ultimo, I have become aware that the Christians cherish a stronger desire than I had suspected that Crete may be made a Principality, if all hopes of obtaining British protection be unavailing. Finding the feeling in favour of a Principality in preference to an improved Organic Law very strongly expressed, I did not consider that I was justified in keeping it back from your Excellency, and I accordingly dispatched the following telegram to-day:—

"The Christians and most Moslems desire that Crete be placed, if possible, under English protection; if that be impossible, the Christians desire that it be made a Principality, after the manner of Samos; if neither be possible, they accept the Organic law."

The Christians tell me that amongst other advantages which the formation of Crete into a Principality would confer upon the island, many educated Cretans would be attracted here who would accept administrative and judicial posts at the hands of a Prince which they would not accept from the Porte, and they consider that a Prince would have a stronger inducement than the Porte in conferring important posts upon capable men.

Your Excellency's telegram of the 2nd instant I had the honour to receive the following day, in which you inform me that England will use her good offices in procuring an arrangement of a satisfactory nature for the future government of Crete, and that your Excellency has reason to hope that the proposals made in my telegram of the 30th ultimo will be favourably entertained. This I may communicate to the Chiefs without in any way committing the Porte; and the telegram concludes by urging me to spare no pains in preventing the resumption of hostilities and further bloodshed.

I have already let the Provisional Government know that England will use her good offices in bringing about a satisfactory arrangement, and have urged on them the importance of remaining on the defensive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—Although I consented to telegraph the desire of the Cretans for British protection, I told them plainly there was no hope of obtaining it.

T. B. S.

No. 272.

Acting Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 34. Political.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch No. 69 of the 3rd instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, reporting the movement of troops, the change in the military command here, with some information relative to the brigands on Mount Olympus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, August 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th July last, and have communicated to the Agent of Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons the Memorandum from M. Marinitch.

The regular troops who were destined to be sent to Cattarina, over and above the four battalions mentioned in my last despatch, are now to be sent to Monastir against the numerous bands of brigands infesting that neighbourhood, who sympathize with the Albanian movement, and who, joined by many vagabonds, threaten to attack and overpower the local authorities themselves.

The Commander of the military division here, Assaf Pasha, has been recalled to Constantinople, and has been replaced by Salih Pasha (Liva), who has arrived here and taken the command.

We hear that the brigands on Mount Olympus have liberated the fourteen or fifteen Mussulmans, but retained the Christians and Jews, demanding a large ransom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 273.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 122.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, August 8, 1878.

M. RISTIC informed me this morning that the official notice of the ratification of the decisions of the Berlin Congress being on its way here, it was the intention of the Prince and his Government to proclaim the independence of Servia on the 22nd instant, on which day the anniversary of the Prince is celebrated as a national festivity.

I asked his Excellency whether he considered that the conditions of independence laid down by the Congress had been so far fulfilled by this country as to justify the Proclamation, and he replied by a reference to the Memorandum which he had left with the Secretary of the Congress on the 6th July, and which he read to me, to show that the Government had given way on the only point which, in the Servian Constitution, militated against absolute religious freedom and equality, by allowing the Jews in future to exercise their calling in all parts of the country.

M. Ristic added that the Skuptchina having approved of the alteration to this effect in the Constitution, the wish of the Powers had been acceded to, and already begun to be realized.

I remarked that, if I was well informed, the 180th paragraph of the Servian Code allowed parents to deprive their children of half of their natural inheritance in the event of their abandoning the Orthodox Greek Church for another denomination, and asked how M. Ristic reconciled this with religious toleration.

His Excellency professed ignorance of the Article, but made a note of my observa-

tion, and said that "if an Article of the Constitution could be changed a paragraph of a code was no difficult matter to alter."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 274.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 752.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 14, 1878.

I HAVE made a communication to Prince Labanoff in accordance with instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, 11·40 P.M.

No. 275.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 753.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, names of witnesses will not be communicated. As Consul-General is not here your despatch on the subject has not left my hands.

No. 276.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 754.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 14, 1878.

PORTE has asked me whether I would support proposal for a Commission composed of one Russian and one Ottoman member and of the Consular body at Adrianople, for the purpose of examining and settling the claims of Mussulmans whose property has been seized by Bulgarians. Council of Ministers have approved the idea, but they wish to have my opinion before consulting other Embassies. Will your Lordship instruct me as to what answer I am to give?

No. 277.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

Foreign Office, August 15, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)
—PLEASE inquire and let me know who is to be the Russian Commissioner for Asia.

No. 278.

Vice-Consul Gardner to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 16.)

(No. 18.) *Poti, July* 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival at Poti of several steamers belonging to the Russian Steam Navigation Company, loaded with ammunition, mines, many thousands of cases of picks, mattocks, spades, and other war material, for the use of the army of the Caucasus. The works for the defence of Poti and the protection of the line of road into the interior are continued with unabated energy.

A fortress has been constructed six miles inland from Poti, another at Senac, and a third at Samtredi, on the Poti and Tiflis Railway.

There is now a complete line of defence from Abadat, five miles north of Poti, where a very strong fort has been erected, to the railway at a point three miles east of

Poti, where the River Rhion runs parallel with the rail. The river at this spot is about 300 yards broad, of great depth and strength of current. On the left bank of the river, opposite this place, the town is most effectually protected by swamps, rivers, and the Lake Paleostom, which extend five miles south of Poti to Moltaqua, where the River Capachina, the outlet of the Lake Paleostom, falls into the Black Sea.

Along the sea-coast for a distance of ten miles, that is from Abada to Moltaqua, batteries, forts, trenches, rifle-pits, and barricades have been constructed, and are still in course of construction. The small steamer "Babushkà" ("Grandmother"), has just laid fifty-eight torpedoes in addition to those left after peace was declared.

The town of Poti has been ordered to provide 110, Zuigdidi 220, and Ozurget 300 men, with horses and accoutrements, for the mounted militia. On making inquiries as to the object of these great preparations, which are said to have cost in this neighbourhood alone 800,000 roubles, say 85,000*l*., I am informed they are in consequence of orders issued at St. Petersburgh three months ago, when the result of the Congress was doubtful, and now, although peace was assured, the works had been begun, large advances made to contractors, and it was considered necessary to complete them rather than leave them in a half-finished state and lose the amounts already paid for their construction.

Another version is that these forts are constructed to protect the Russians in the event of a rising in Georgia and Immeritia, and this particular time was chosen that no suspicion might be raised amongst the natives, who, it was supposed, would look upon them as precautionary defences against an outward foe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GARDNER.

No. 279.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(*Received August* 16.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, August* 15, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that, in pursuance of an understanding between the Marquis of Salisbury and the First Lord of the Admiralty, the following telegraphic message was sent to the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean this day:—

"You are authorized to act according to the wishes expressed by the Ambassador at Constantinople with reference to the movements of ships under your command, reporting at once to the Admiralty."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 280.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 16.)

(No. 755.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1878.

GENERAL TODLEBEN informs me that he hopes to begin embarkation of Russian army on Tuesday or Wednesday next, but that it will not be entirely removed from coasts of Sea of Marmora before about the 1st October. Will you instruct me as to when fleet is to retire to Gallipoli. Is it when first departure of Russian troops takes place?

General Todleben says first twenty transports will leave Odessa in about ten days. They will return about ten days after, and fifty transports will then be ready to remove remainder of army simultaneously from different points on Sea of Marmora.

No. 281.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 757.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday Grand Vizier declared emphatically that he has no knowledge of the passage of armed bands from Albania into Bosnia. The most stringent orders to Governor-General of Kossova to prevent it by every possible means have been repeated to-day. He admits that 300 soldiers, probably belonging to garrison of Sienitza, may have passed into Bosnia in defiance of authorities. His Highness has promised to send the instructions to receive Austrians as friends, without loss of time, addressed to Hafiz Pasha, in the form of a Circular to all the authorities in the province. I have pointed out to his Highness the danger of Austrians going further than they first intended if opposed by force.

His Highness says that Turkey would have to deplore deeply such an eventuality, and hopes that Austria will not overstep limits assigned by Congress to her occupation.

No. 282.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 758. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 15, 1878.*

SULTAN has written me a letter in his own hand, in which he states that Memorandum I submitted to him suggests reforms calculated to augment prosperity of his Empire and of his subjects; that the Grand Vizier, to whom he has shown it, is of that same opinion; and that he will give orders to the Porte for the successive and immediate application of those reforms conformably to usages, customs, and law of his country, and to the faithful discharge of his duties comprised in this.

His Majesty explains why he added reservation of his sovereign rights to his signature to the ratification, and adds that, as Her Majesty's Government wishes that he should execute reforms compatible with those rights, the most perfect agreement exists between him and them.

No. 283.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 436. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed by the Turkish Minister here that the French Ambassador at Constantinople, who passed through Athens yesterday on his way to Paris, had told him that he had informed the Sultan that the presence at the Piræus of a French squadron was intended as a demonstration on the part of the French Government against a possible attack on Greece by Turkey. In reply to an inquiry addressed to him by the Sultan as to whether the French Government would in that case declare war against Turkey, Mr. Fournier had replied that the French Government had no such intention, but that they would prevent any attack on the coasts of Greece by Turkish forces. I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 284.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 438.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 6, 1878.*

THE King has conferred upon Rear-Admiral Le Jeune, who commands the French squadron in the Piræus, the Grand Cross of the Redeemer of Greece.

As it has not hitherto been the practice to confer the first-class decoration of this order on Foreign officers below the rank of Vice-Admiral, the conferring of it on the French Admiral at this moment is looked upon as a public acknowledgment of the friendly feeling which France has lately shown towards Greece in assisting to bring about the satisfaction of her aspirations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 285.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 439.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 6, 1878.*

THE King of the Hellenes has sent an aide-de-camp to convey to Prince Nicholas of Montenegro the decoration of the Grand Cross of the Redeemer of Greece.

It is not considered that this proceeding has any political signification, but is simply a mark of courtesy on the part of this Court on the occasion of Prince Nicholas becoming, in consequence of the Treaty of Berlin, an independent Sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 286.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 441. Secret.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an excellent authority informed Mr. Wyndham yesterday that he is, and has been from the first, perfectly satisfied with the rectification of the frontiers of Greece, as proposed by Congress, and that the complaint that Greece had been duped by Her Majesty's Government did not originate here, and did not meet with his approval. He added that if Janina were included in the territory to be given to Greece she would be able to follow completely Lord Beaconsfield's advice, and remain patient, even for a 100 years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 287.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 444.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 8, 1878.*

M. COUMOUNDOUROS has requested me to inform your Lordship that the Greek Government have received numerous letters from the Greek inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus, complaining of outrages committed against their persons and property in those districts by the Turkish troops, both regular and irregular. The Turks are represented as devastating the country.

From other sources I have learnt that in Macedonia also great injury has been suffered by the Greek inhabitants at the hands of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 288.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 447.)
Athens, August 8, 1878.

My Lord,

IN addition to the French squadron, now at anchor in the Piræus, two French ironclads and a despatch-boat are cruizing off the coast of Eubœa. It is believed that their presence there is accounted for by the fact that a Turkish man-of-war, under the command of Mantiurp Bey, has recently entered the Greek Port of Stylida, and taken soundings and searched for torpedoes in a somewhat ostentatious manner, and thus raised a suspicion that an attack on the part of the Turkish navy might possibly be contemplated in those parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 290.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 761.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 16, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY read this morning to the Grand Vizier a telegram from Count Andrassy dated yesterday, in which, after complaining of hostile attitude of Turkish authorities in Bosnia, of entry of armed men into the province from Albania, and of other things, Count Andrassy ends by saying it is now time for the Porte to decide whether she will retain Bosnia and Herzegovina by allowing Austria to enter and administer them as a friend, or whether she prefers to be deprived of them, and perhaps of other provinces also, by conquest. Count Andrassy demanded an immediate and categorical answer. Grand Vizier will submit this telegram to the Sultan, and has promised Count Zichy a reply to-morrow.

Despotovitch is at St. Petersburgh, and has proposed to Turkish Ambassador to unite with Turkey to oppose Austrian occupation, stating that he has money and means of causing great trouble to Austria. Turkish Ambassador has been instructed to have nothing to do with him.

No. 291.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 762.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 17, 1878.*

EMPEROR of Russia has demanded Batoum by the 15th of this month (o. s.), threatening that unless it is delivered up by that date it will be taken by force. Dervish Pasha has received orders to surrender the place as soon as possible, but the Grand Duke Michael complains that no preparations are being made for its evacuation.

No. 292.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 763.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 17, 1878.*

MR. ST. CLAIR has addressed a telegram to myself and the Grand Vizier complaining that Russians have been attacking the Mussulman population and refugees in Mount Rhodope during the last two days, and that severe fighting is going on. This appears to be in direct contradiction to the Emperor's promise, that they should not be molested if they did not assail Russians.

No. 293.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 764.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 17, 1878.*

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs that it is reported from Monastir, that on the 14th instant about 5,000 Bulgarians from Kustandil, which is occupied by Russia, attacked Turkish troops at Banitza; engagement lasted ten hours. Reinforcements have been sent there from Salonica. These Bulgarians are armed with Martini-Henry rifles.

No. 294.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 765.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 17, 1878.*

I HAD a long conversation with the Sultan to-day, and submitted to him the three reforms specified in your despatch of the 8th instant.

His Majesty said that he accepted them as far as he could do so without consulting his Ministers, and was willing to carry them out; but that without money he could do nothing. He said that if Her Majesty's Government could assist him in obtaining a loan of 6,000,000*l.* sterling, he pledged himself to begin organization of the police at once; 4,000,000*l.* would be required for the withdrawal of the paper money, and the remainder would be used for sending back and settling the refugees and for the police and other reforms. He proposed that loan should be applied to these purposes by a Commission, under the immediate superintendence of a Committee composed of himself, Grand Vizier and me. He again begged me to entreat Her Majesty's Government to assist him in obtaining this loan, without which he is utterly unable to do anything, having even been compelled to borrow money at exorbitant interest to furnish rations to his troops.

Grand Vizier, to whom I also communicated the proposed reforms, highly approved of them, only objecting that it would be impossible to find Europeans acquainted with the Turkish language to fill the judicial offices.

The want of money necessarily prevents all reforms. If a police force were established it could not be paid. The Treasury is absolutely empty. Sultan is very anxious to hear whether there is any chance of Her Majesty's Government assisting him to obtain loan.

No. 295.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 766.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 17, 1878.*

SULTAN earnestly requests Her Majesty's Government to obtain appointment of a Consular or other Commission to protect Mussulman population in Bulgaria who are being deprived of their property and subjected to cruel treatment by Russians and Bulgarians. This specially applies to Mussulmans of Shumla and Varna districts.

No. 296.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 17, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY does not object to Russian proposal of counting the period for the completion of the work of the Eastern Roumelian Commission from the date of the meeting of the Commission.

The Commissioner he is thinking of naming could not, he says, be at Constantinople quite immediately.

No. 297.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 17, 1878.*

TURKISH Ambassador here receives many applications from the Ottoman authorities in Bosnia for instructions for their guidance in their conduct towards the insurgents, as they get none from the Porte.

Among others, the Commandant at Bielina, very near Austrian frontier, is hard pressed by the insurgents who wish to oblige him to join them with his garrison and guns.

The Ambassador has received no answer from the Porte to his inquiry whether these troops should resist or retire upon Austrian territory, and if forced to join insurgents doubt will be thrown upon the good faith of the Turkish Government.

Porte may not have the means of communicating with its authorities, but should authorize Ambassador here to convey its instructions to such of them as he can communicate with.

No. 298.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 17, 1878.*

MOST of the Convention proposed by the Porte will be accepted by Count Andrassy, and the only really important point at issue is a clause providing that when things in Bosnia have got into a state permitting exceptional measures to be dispensed with, each Government might notify fact to the Treaty Powers for their consideration.

There is no prospect of Count Andrassy consenting to such a clause, even if modified, and the Convention must fail if it is insisted on.

There are also difficulties about minor points, as Count Andrassy will not agree that the officials in Bosnia should be appointed in the name of the Sultan, or that the administration and revenues of the Crown lands, forests, and minerals shall depend on the Porte.

On the other hand, the hoisting of the Turkish flag, the prayer for the Sultan in the mosque, full protection of the Mahommedan religion, the maintenance in office of competent Turkish officials, and their replacement when necessary by natives of the province, will be admitted.

I believe that it will not be possible to obtain better terms for the Porte, and that, for the interest of Turkey, they ought to be accepted.

No. 299.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 17, 1878.*

COUNT CORTI would wish to know if Her Majesty's Government have settled with Russia the question of Eastern Roumelia, and if, as he has been informed, it (the Commission) is to meet and sit at Constantinople eventually to be transferred to Philippopolis?

No. 300.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 17, 1878, 4·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 754, proposal of Turkish Ministers for Commission at Adrianople to settle claims of Mussulmans is equitable and should be supported by you.

No. 301.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 17, 1878, 5·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 147, explain to M. de Giers that our Commission for delimitation of Bulgaria will be ready by the 13th September; that if he wishes it, we can appoint Asiatic Commissioner, though the country hardly seems settled enough. There is no mention in Treaty of Commissioners for Servia and Montenegro.

No. 302.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 969.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1878.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 754 of the 14th instant, I have to acquaint you that the proposal of the Turkish Ministers for the appointment of a Commission at Adrianople to settle the claims of Mussulmans whose property has been seized by Bulgarians appears to Her Majesty's Government to be an equitable one, and that it should, therefore receive your Excellency's support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 303.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 439.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1878.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 147 of the 14th instant, I have instructed you to explain to M. de Giers that the British Commissioners for the Delimitation of Bulgaria will be ready to assist at the first meeting of the Commission on the 13th September, and that if the Russian Government desire it Her Majesty's Government are prepared to proceed at once to the appointment of their Commissioner for determining the boundaries in Asia, although the country hardly appears to be sufficiently settled at present for this Commission to commence its labours.

I notice that M. de Giers speaks of the appointment of two other Commissioners, but I do not find that any provision is made in the Treaty of Berlin requiring the appointment of European Commissioners to settle the new boundaries assigned to Servia and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 304.

Sir J. Paunceforte to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reported by telegraph on the 11th instant that he had received a letter from the Russian Ambassador, stating that orders have been sent to General Todleben by the Emperor of Russia for the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the neighbourhood of Constantinople. Prince Labanoff was instructed to bring this order to Sir H. Layard's knowledge in pursuance of the arrangement come to between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia for the simultaneous retreat of the Russian army and of the British fleet.

In reply, Sir H. Layard has been authorized to state to Prince Labanoff that as soon as General Todleben informs Her Majesty's Embassy that the Russian army is retiring from Constantinople the British fleet will proceed to Gallipoli, and as soon as

he is able to announce that the Russian forces have retired beyond the frontier of Eastern Roumelia the fleet will pass the Dardanelles.

Sir H. Layard reports that he addressed a note to the Russian Ambassador in these terms on the 14th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 305.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 62. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, August 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting on the proceedings of Djevdet Pasha, the present Governor-General of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, August 2, 1878.*

IN my despatch of the 19th ultimo, relative to the recovery of certain camels stolen from the contractor of the English mail between Damascus and Baghdad, I mentioned that many reports unfavourable to Djevdet Pasha were in circulation.

Since the date of that despatch information has reached me from various sources, quite independent of each other, which reflect so strongly on the conduct of the Vali, that I should consider myself guilty of neglect of duty did I not submit in substance the statements, which are publicly made, to the appreciation of your Excellency.

I trust, however, you will understand that I do not undertake to prove the charges which are brought against Djevdet Pasha, although I have a moral conviction that they are not unworthy of credit, from the respectability of the sources of my information, as well as from the notoriety they have recently obtained.

For a long time past the bribery, corruption, and peculation existing in the public offices at Damascus have been a great scandal, and have been frequently reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Jago and his predecessors, as well as by myself. During the five months that Djevdet Pasha has administered the vilayet this regrettable state of affairs appears to have been infinitely worse, so that it is considered quite hopeless to attempt to get any business transacted at the vilayet without bribing heavily the functionaries and the Governor-General himself, under whom the vicious system appears to be carried on with the most unblushing effrontery.

It is reported that during the recent farming of the tithes as much as 10,000*l.* were expended at Damascus in bribes, of which the share of Djevdet Pasha is said to have been 4,500*l.*

He is accused of having received 250*l.* from the officer charged with the security of the highways, in order to hush up the affair of the camels stolen from the contractor of the Damascus Baghdad post.

The Vali is said to have demanded 1,000*l.* from Fares Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Djana, and because he could or would only pay 300*l.*, he was compelled to resign.

The Druse Chief Ali-el Haggiar, whose proceedings were reported in my despatch of the 4th February last, has been suffered to return to his district in consideration of 100*l.* paid to Djevdet Pasha, notwithstanding that he is a fugitive from justice, against whom there appears to be no less than thirty accusations of acts of violence, pillage, and even murder.

I will not multiply these instances, as I consider those given above will suffice to give your Excellency an idea of what is going on, though several others have been reported to me, and they all form subjects of public discussion.

The existing state of affairs is producing a very serious effect upon the

inhabitants of Damascus, who are usually so patient under ordinary acts of oppression and misgovernment.

Already manuscript placards in Turkish and Arabic have been posted up at the Seraglio, the Great Mosque, and other public places, in which some of the accusations I have mentioned above are set forth in language anything but complimentary to the Vali, who is invited to amend his ways before worse consequences ensue.

It is pointed out that similar acts of oppression, corruption, and peculation as those of which Djevdet Pasha is accused, led to the revolts which took place in the European provinces of Turkey and the consequences.

In one of those placards the people of Syria are invited, if there is no improvement, to take the matter into their own hands. It concludes with the following remarkable passages:—

"Do not fancy, Syrians, that you are left alone to reform these abuses. You have friends who are willing and ready to assist you. Awake, then, from your lethargy. . . . Personal interests must be set aside when the prosperity and progress of your country are in question. . . . The reins of Government will soon pass into your own hands.

"All this is mysterious, but it is for you who are intelligent to understand that the duty of a friend is to commence. It is for you to achieve. In any case I will shortly return to you."

I do not pretend to understand the meaning, if they have any, of these allusions to external aid. The whole spirit of this placard is one inviting the inhabitants to resist the oppression of Djevdet Pasha, and the extortion practised by the functionaries of the Government, though there are no signs of dissatisfaction against the Ottoman rule.

Recently Syria has been truly unfortunate in the persons selected to fill the office of Governor-General. It is only a little more than a year ago that I had the painful duty to report on the administrative incapacity of Zia Pasha (*vide* my despatch of the 12th May, 1877), and now Djevdet Pasha appears, not from any want of capacity, but from his rapacity and avidity for money, to have in five months produced a state of discontent in Syria more dangerous for the peace of the province than that achieved by any of his predecessors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 306.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 63. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, August 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the present state of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and the good impression produced by the announcement of the speedy return of Rustem Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, August 2, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 7th ultimo, transmitting to me, for any observations I may have to make thereupon, a translation of a petition addressed to you by the inhabitants of the Lebanon, complaining of the conduct of Rustem Pasha, and a copy of a telegram on the same subject.

As these documents appear in substance to be only a repetition of the former complaints against his Excellency, I will not trouble you with reiteration of the explanations I have already given in my previous Reports on this subject.

The announcement that Rustem Pasha will shortly return to his post has created an excellent impression throughout the Lebanon, where the most perfect tranquillity reigns, notwithstanding the sensational reports published in some foreign newspapers to the contrary, as many of the adherents of the Bishop Butros are becoming persuaded that the continuation of their intrigues may lead to evil results for themselves personally.

The clergy, however, and some of the more fanatical amongst the Maronites, continue, I am informed, to send petitions and telegrams to the President of the French Republic, and other exalted personages, demanding the dismissal of Rustem Pasha and the triumphal return of the Bishop of the Lebanon, which, in my opinion, would be most undesirable and ill-advised, until he and his friends cease entirely from creating agitation in the country by their intrigues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 307.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, August 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the case of murder recently committed at Beyrout, of which the victim was a Christian, and the presumed assassins Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 307.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, August 3, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that about a fortnight ago a party of young men, Christians of Beyrout, were returning about 9 P.M. from a drive, and, when near the town, one of them alighted from the carriage and was attacked and stabbed by two men, who appeared to be lying in wait for them.

The others ran to his assistance, but were also wounded in the scuffle, and one was killed on the spot, the assassins effecting their escape, though they were recognized by the coachman (who was also slightly wounded) as Mussulmans.

The body of the murdered man was transported into town, and, when what had transpired became known, a large number of their friends and other Christians collected and conveyed the body to the house of the Governor, demanding justice; they also promenaded the streets with cries of vengeance if justice were not done; and at one time there was some danger that a collision between them and Mussulmans might occur. This, however, was prevented by the energetic measures adopted by the authorities, who arrested several of the Christians most active in the demonstration.

The police were dispatched in all directions in search of the assassins, but they were captured by some private individuals and handed over to the authorities, who promised that the matter should be fairly investigated, and the prisoners, if found guilty, punished according to law.

So far all was well, though great excitement prevailed in the town, but the authorities, instead of actively pursuing the investigation into the original crime of murder, showed great alacrity in trying the Christians who took part in the demonstration, and, already, fourteen have been condemned to imprisonment for terms of from ten days to six months; and, I am told, that the coachman who swore positively to the identity of the assassins has been put in irons, and even submitted to torture to force him to recant his former evidence.

Meanwhile, those who are accused of the murder are, I am informed, submitted to a simple detention in the seraglio, and allowed to return to their homes at night; and every effort appears to be made to have the matter, as far as they are concerned,

hushed up, by delays and difficulties created by the authorities, whose energetic action in trying and condemning the Christians who took part in what was not an unnatural or unusual demonstration, though perhaps it might have led to a breach of the peace, seems to have for its object the intimidation of witnesses in order to prevent them from coming forward to give evidence against the murderers.

The cause of the crime, I am informed, was jealousy existing between a wealthy young Mussulman and one of the Christians who was only slightly wounded—the murdered man being quite a stranger to the whole affair—whom the assassins were hired to kill by his rival.

This untoward event has created an amount of animosity between the two classes of the population of Beyrout which has not existed for some time, and this, the action of the authorities, has only served to increase; though it had its origin in a personal quarrel, party feeling now runs high, so that any little circumstance may bring the two classes into collision and lead to serious consequences, since the Christians are not likely to submit quietly to any aggressive steps against them, being encouraged by the presence of the large naval and military forces of Her Majesty within a few hours' sail, upon which they think they can rely in case of need.

Had the authorities shown the same zeal in investigating the original crime of murder which they displayed in punishing the Christians for their manifestation, which was somewhat excusable, considering that they acted without reflection and under the excitement of the moment, this event would not have produced the painful impression and the amount of ill-feeling which it has done.

But it is the extreme leniency shown towards those accused of the murder, because, as I presume, they are Mussulmans, and the severity with which the Christians appear to have been treated, that gives all the importance to the affair.

I do not, however, mean to say that those who took an active part as leaders of the Christian mob should escape without any punishment, but I maintain that equal justice ought to have been meted out to each party according to the extent of their guilt, and not according to their religious caste.

The substance of the foregoing remarks and opinions I have made known to Raef Effendi, the Governor of Beyrout, who appears to have acted, in this instance, more under the influence of the Medjliss and the pressure put upon him by the Mussulmans of Beyrout, the presumed hirer of the assassins being a man of some position, than upon his own conviction, as, hitherto, his Excellency has usually treated all parties, on similar occasions, with impartiality and justice, irrespective of creed; and I have not unfrequently had to report favourably on his action in dealing with criminal matters in which Christians and Mussulmans were engaged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 307.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Tripoli, le 31 Juillet, 1878.*

LES Circassiens continuent à inquiéter la population par des actes d'agression dont le plus récent ne manque pas de gravité. Trois d'entr'eux, conduisant chacun un cheval, avisèrent la porte ouverte d'un jardin. Ils y entrèrent et firent paître leurs chevaux dans les légumes qui s'y cultivent. La femme du paysan jardinier voulut s'opposer à ce vandalism qui détruisait le salaire et la ressource de la famille. Les Circassiens la brutalisèrent et la jetèrent dans un fossé. Son mari accourut à ses cris, protesta à son tour. Un des Agresseurs, pour toute réponse, déchargea immédiatement sur lui son pistolet presqu'à bout portant. La balle traversa les muscles de la cuisse de part en part, sans atteindre l'os, et comme elle n'est pas restée dans la plaie, la blessure n'a pas été mortelle. Un jeune Musulman Tripolitain, qui se trouvait présent, poussa des cris en voyant tomber le paysan. Les Circassiens se précipitèrent sur lui. Il leur échappa heureusement. Mais ils le poursuivirent jusqu'à l'entrée de la ville, pendant plus d'un kilomètre. Leur intention évidente était de se défaire d'un témoin compromettant. Ils n'y réussirent pas, et l'alarme fut donnée en ville. Bientôt arrivèrent la femme et les enfants; puis le blessé lui-même, que la police fit transporter au sérail. On arrêta plusieurs Circassiens. Leur attitude fut un instant menaçant au sérail même. On ne tarda pas à connaître les auteurs du crime. Deux d'entr'eux furent pris et sont encore en prison. Le troisième a échappé. C'est, dit-on,

celui-là même qui a tiré le coup de pistolet. On l'a cherché les deux premiers jours et comme d'habitude, on ne s'est plus occupé de lui. Il se trouve bien certainement au milieu des siens.

Quant au blessé, on le fit transporter à sa maison et l'autorité ne se serait pas plus occupée de lui que de son assassin, sans mes réclamations, qui eurent pour résultat de lui procurer, au troisième jour, quelques soins médicaux de la Municipalité. Après une fièvre de réaction assez dangereuse, il est maintenant en assez bonne voie de guérison. Mais il en a pour longtemps encore avant de pouvoir reprendre son travail; et il n'y a pas à espérer que notre autorité fasse rien pour lui venir en aide.

Du côté d'Akkar les affaires semblent de nouveau entrer dans une mauvaise voie. Notre Mutasserif y est allé pour affermer les dîmes, et au lieu de faire comme ses derniers prédécesseurs, qui adjugeaient toujours les villages Chrétiens à leurs habitants eux-mêmes, il les a adjugés aux agas Musulmans; à ceux-là mêmes qui ont commis tant de méfaits dans ces dernières années. C'est la population Chrétienne livrée à ses persécuteurs, et il faut nous attendre à de nouveaux excès.

Déjà le Cheik du gros village Chrétien de Rahbé vient d'être victime d'une vengeance qui n'est pas la première. On lui a boulé toute sa récolte de blé. Il m'est arrivé avec une recommendation de Monseigneur l'Evêque Orthodoxe d'Akkar, et m'a adressé une requête que je vous transmets ci-inclus. Il y fait connaître tout ce qu'il a eu à souffrir de ses ennemis Musulmans. Ce n'est qu'un fait isolé. Mais tout fait présumer que ce n'est qu'un prélude. Le Mutessarif est d'une profonde nullité, et des récents agissements dans l'adjudication des dîmes sont de nature à faire suspecter gravement ses intentions et ses mœurs administratives.

Quoiqu'il en soit toute cette autorité est dans la plus complète prostration. Les affaires y sont livrées à l'arbitraire des employés. La justice y est rendue moins que jamais. Les finances sont dilapidées. C'est un état de désordre et d'anarchie qui tient évidemment au marasme général où se trouve l'Empire. Mais il est rendu encore plus sensible par l'incapacité du Mutasserif. Toutes les classes de la population aspirent à rentrer dans un régime plus régulier. Après les récentes solutions données à la question de l'Orient, il est permis d'espérer désormais que nous touchons à la fin de cette intolérable et dangereuse situation.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) BLANCHE.

No. 308.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 65. Political.)

Aleih, August 3, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 77 and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on various circumstances occurring in the outlying districts within my jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 308.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleih, August 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitalé, and a copy of a Report from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche on matters transpiring in the district of Lattákia and Tripoli.

I forward these despatches without further comment than that they were to prove the state of disorganization into which the administration of the Vilayet of Syria has recently fallen, and which loudly calls for some reform.

As a constrast to the above I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Abela, reporting on the

impression produced on the inhabitants of Sidon by the cession to Her Majesty of the Island of Cyprus, and the hopes entertained as to the result this event will have on the future Government of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 308.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Lattaquié, le 31 Juillet*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que lors des plaintes réitérées contre les Musulmans de Sahioun qui commettent souvent des vols dans les villages de la plaine, le Caïmacam de cette ville a envoyé depuis bientôt trois mois dans le susdit canton de Sahioun, Abdula Ago Turieh, Mudir de Bet-el Chelf, avec ordre d'arrêter, de concert avec un officier militaire et le Mudir de Sahioun, tous les hommes qui y sont suspects; ces trois fonctionnaires ont reussi de prendre douze individus dans le village Babanna et de les amener en ville où ils sont encore emprisonnés. Après quoi, le Mudir de Bét-el-Chelf dût retourner à son poste et l'officier militaire descendre en ville, laissant au Mudir de Sahioun d'achever l'ordre du Caïmacam en arrêtant tous les voleurs; mais ce dernier s'est très-mal comporté, puisqu'on m'assure que chaque fois qu'il en arrêtait un, il le mettait le lendemain en liberté moyennant quelques piastres; et il est bien vrai que depuis lors il n'a envoyé aucun voleur à la prison de Lattaquié.

Une fois que j'avais vu le Caïmacam après l'arrestation des dits douze individus de Babanna, je l'en ai félicité, en ajoutant que je croyais qu'il était prudent que chacun d'eux subisse son jugement et sa punition sans perte de temps, afin que les innocents—s'il y en avait parmi eux—puissent être promptement relâchés, parce que les gens des campagnes se plaignent toujours de ce défaut des autorités de Lattaquié.

Pénétré de la justesse de mon conseil, le Caïmacam m'a promis de l'adopter, et en effet, il a recommandé le Mejliss d'agir ainsi.

Malheuresement trois mois sont déjà écoulés et l'on n'a rien fait, que je sache, pour rendre justice; au contraire, je sais que parmi ces prisonniers il y a deux qui sont malades, et leurs maladies sont constatées par des certificats d'un médecin; malgré cela le Mejliss a refusé de les mettre en liberte, et fit une investigation sur leur compte d'après laquelle il a été prouvé que depuis deux ans ces deux vivent honnêtement et n'ont rien volé a qui que ce soit. Auparavant ils étaient suspects, mais il n'y a rien de prouvé, et personne ne porte plainte contr'eux, ni les accuse de lui avoir volé quelque chose, et cependant ils sont encore en prison. Ce sont Abdulvéhab-Ibn, Cheik-Saleh, et Ibrahim-Ibu-Kandan.

Quelqu'un qui causait avec moi de ceci m'a dit que si les innocents parmi les prisonniers de Sahioun seront forcés d'acheter leur liberté, ils ne manqueront pas de devenir des voleurs pour se rattraper sur les gens des villages paisibles de ce qu'ils auront payé.

J'ai appris aussi que le Mudir de Sahioun, qui se trouve momentanément ici, leur aurait dit qu'ils ne seront point relâchés que par son entremise, tous ensemble et moyennant argent.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) N. VITALÉ.

Inclosure 3 in No. 308.

Vice-Consul Abela to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Saida, le 27 Juillet*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance, que le 10 de ce mois, une nouvelle à circulé dans la ville de Saïda et dans ses voisinages que Sa Majesté le Sultan, dans le but de protéger et de faire prospérer ses domaines en Asie, a fait concession de l'Ile de Chypre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et qu'une expédition Anglaise était arrivée pour prendre possession de l'Ile. Cette inattendue et importante nouvelle, malgré qu'elle était encore douteuse, cependant n'a pas manqué de produire une assez bonne impression sur le public; mais peu de jours après, lorsqu'elle a été

confirmée et que les journaux l'ont publiée, l'impression est devenue bien grande et la joie ainsi que la satisfaction se sont manifestées chez tout le monde. J'ai observé que plusieurs, même des Musulmans, ont jalousé le sort de Chypre et souhaitent ardemment que la Syrie puisse un jour jouir d'une même immunité. Il y a d'autres qui font reposer leur espoir, que sous les auspices de l'Angleterre, sans doute, la Syrie sera mieux gouvernée pour finir de tant d'abus et d'injustice qui se commettent chaque jour. Enfin, j'ai remarqué aussi que la nouvelle de la concession de Chypre a produit une très-bonne impression sur le public en général, et c'est pour cela que je me suis permis de venir vous la soumettre.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) H. ABELA.

No. 309.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 993.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 8, 1878.

I HEAR it stated that Secret Committees have already been formed in Eastern Roumelia in order to set on foot a movement to bring about the union of that province with Bulgaria. The leaders of this movement have, it would appear, prepared a *memoire* or manifesto, in support of the "Panbulgarian" cause, of which I have not yet been able to obtain a copy.

Whether the Russian authorities are parties to, or are encouraging, this agitation, I am unable to say. An article on the subject from the "Phare du Bosphore," which I inclose, contains some information, which, if trustworthy, may be worthy of your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 309.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore."

AGITATION I.—Le Congrès de Berlin devait, chacun l'espérait du moins, fermer l'ère des agitations trop longtemps ouverte en Orient. Mais, comme il n'a pas satisfait les ambitions Panslavistes, ni assouvi les appétits Bulgares, son œuvre est menacée de stérilité.

Ce n'est point à la légère que nous avançons une aussi grave assertion. Nous avons, au contraire, de sérieux motifs de craindre le retour de troubles dont la Roumélie Orientale a été déjà le théâtre. Déçus dans leurs espérances, mais encouragés par le succès partiel qu'ils ont obtenu, les Panslavistes ont recommencé leurs menées avant que l'encre des signatures du Traité ne se fût séchée.

La Roumélie Orientale est, de nouveau, le foyer de vastes intrigues, formées dans le dessein avoué d'annuler, par la force des événements, les décisions de l'Europe. Le Congrès a séparé la Bulgarie du Traité de San Stefano en deux parties. Le but de ces intrigues est de rejoindre, de ressouder les deux tronçons.

On savait que les Panslavistes en feraient à l'avenir l'objectif de leur politique. Mais on était loin de supposer qu'ils mettraient autant de précipitation à entreprendre l'accomplissement de ce vaste programme.

Ce qui se passe, à l'heure qu'il est, dans la Roumélie Orientale ne laisse planer aucun doute: le travail est commencé.

Un Comité Panbulgare s'est constitué, a nommé des sous-comités dans tous les centres un peu importantes, rayonne enfin dans toutes les provinces du Sud des Balkans.

Dans celles qui sont occupées par l'armée Russe, le travail se poursuit au grand jour. Aussi le Comité Panbulgare a-t-il choisi Philippopoli pour siége; c'est là que viennent aboutir les fils de cet immense réseau qui étreint dans ses mailles la Roumélie Orientale.

Non-seulement ce Comité fonctionne ouvertement, librement, mais il tient à faire parler de lui, à revêtir avec ostentation un caractère légal.

Aussi, n'hésite-t-on pas à croire, qu'il s'est fondé sous les auspices du grand

personnage officiel, le Général Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, Gouverneur de la Bulgarie, dont le Comité prétend recevoir les inspirations.

Il traite, comme de Puissance à Puissance avec les Princes et les Ambassadeurs. Il a formulé son programme et ses aspirations dans un mémoire adressé au Grand-Duc Héritier de Russie et au fameux agitateur Panslaviste, Aksakoff.

Toutes les Chancelleries de l'Europe en ont eu communication, et l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople, le Prince Lobanoff de Rostow, en a reçu un exemplaire des mains d'une députation Bulgare.

Bien qu'il ne soit pas sans savoir qu'un tel Comité ne pourrait pas fonctionner à Philippopoli sans l'autorisation, ou tout au moins, sans la tolérance de l'Administration militaire Russe, partout si clairvoyante et si sévère, mais plus spécialement en Pologne, le Prince Lobanoff crut toutefois devoir engager les Représentants Bulgares à renoncer à des tentatives nécessairement stériles dans les circonstances actuelles, et à consacrer leurs forces et leurs aptitudes à une œuvre plus féconde, plus profitable au développement national.

Dans ce mémoire, les Panslavistes le prennent de haut avec l'Europe, affectent un ton d'autorité, affichent des prétensions qui seraient risibles si, malheureusement, elles n'étaient pas dangereuses.

"Les habitants du Sud des Balkans, dit le mémoire, sont en immense majorité Bulgares; ils ont de tous temps manifesté leurs sentiments nationaux par des sacrifices en hommes et en argent. Le fait que la Roumélie Orientale reste sous la dépendance immédiate du Sultan, menace les Bulgares dans leurs aspirations, les blesse dans leur dignité, et leur fait craindre des catastrophes."

Tels sont les motifs invoqués par les Panslavistes pour réclamer,—et c'est la conclusion du mémoire que le Comité de Philippopoli a lancé au nom des habitants du Vilayet d'Andrinople—qu'il soit fait un Etat commun, une entité politique et nationale, des territoires que le Congrès a séparés et où domine l'élément Bulgare! La dernière partie de la conclusion mérite d'être citée textuellement:—

"Si on ne tenait pas compte de leurs vœux il se produirait à coup sûr des événements qui pourraient menacer de nouveau le repos de l'Orient."

Les Panslavistes agitent l'épouvantail d'une insurrection Bulgare pour convertir l'Europe à leurs vues ambitieuses et la rendre, malgré elle, complice de leurs projets.

Craindre une pareille éventualité serait faire injure à l'Europe, douter de son bon sens et de sa bonne foi.

Mais l'Europe n'a pas seulement le devoir d'affirmer, chaque fois que l'occasion s'en présentera, le programme arrêté par le Congrès de Berlin; elle a celui d'en assurer l'exécution intégrale et de le défendre contre toute atteinte et tout amoindrissement.

Quant aux avantages futurs que les Russes retireraient de nouveaux désordres en Roumélie, ils sont si clairs que nous n'avons pas besoin de les énumérer.

L'avantage immédiat serait de transformer en occupation indéfinie l'occupation temporaire de cette province.

No. 310.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 995. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 8, 1878.

A SHORT time ago, when a report prevailed that attempts were being made to induce the Sultan to recall Mahmoud Nedim Pasha to power, I took occasion to inform His Majesty that the employment of this Pasha in high office would make a most unfavourable impression upon Her Majesty's Government and upon public opinion in Europe. I also warned His Majesty that I had reason to believe that the return to power of an individual who was mainly responsible for the misfortunes which had befallen his country would produce the worst possible effect upon the Mussulman and Christian populations. Mainly, I believe, on account of my representations, the Sultan abandoned the idea that he might have been led to entertain by persons of influence in the Palace of allowing Mahmoud Nedim to come to Constantinople.

His Majesty, on speaking to me on one occasion on the subject, observed that he had no intention whatever to employ the ex-Grand Vizier in his service again; but

that as Mahmoud Nedim had been banished without trial, and in violation of the Constitution, he was entitled to be allowed to return to Constantinople to answer any charges that there might be against him.

I have now received a communication from Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who appeals to my feelings of humanity not to oppose his return to Constantinople, as he is old and suffering from a serious disease for which he requires medical aid and advice. I have replied to him that I have no desire or intention whatever to persecute him, and that I could have no objection to his coming here for the object he specifies; but that I should use all the influence I possess to prevent him from again holding office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 311.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 396.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, giving an account of insults offered by Greeks at Volo to Protestants and an American lady; I have communicated them, and a previous despatch from Mr. Blunt on the same subject, to my American colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 311.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 20, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th instant, relative to the outrages recently perpetrated by some people in the Greek community at Volo against the Protestants in that place, I have the honour to inclose a Report on the subject from Mr. Borrell, who is in charge of British interests there.

Your Excellency will be glad to learn that, according to the most recent reports received from Volo by the Governor of Thessaly, the town is quiet; and the Protestants have not been subjected to any further molestation.

I have informed the American missionaries, in reply to their application to take action in the matter, that Mr. Borrell had been directed to afford them all proper protection in conjunction with the Ottoman authorities; and I also assured them that in case any further assistance should be required of me by them or by the Captain of the United States' ship-of-war expected at Volo to attend to the matter, it will be cheerfully afforded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 311.

Mr. Borrell to Vice-Consul Suter.

Volo, July 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Sunday last, the 21st instant, the members of the American Protestant Society have been insulted in a most shameful manner by the mob of this town. The cause of this scandalous proceeding is chiefly due, from what I am informed, to a certain Righa, shop-keeper, and a few persons who formerly belonged to the Orthodox creed, and have lately embraced the Protestant religion. It seems that these neophytes frequently discuss publicly on religious matters, and exert themselves to prove to their Orthodox friends their erroneous notions in this respect. These public discussions have finally irritated some families to a very high degree, and particularly so when they heard that even Righa's wife and children were also converted in the Protestant religion, so that on

Saturday last, whilst Righa and his family were proceeding to Miss Isabella Leyburn's house (an American lady) to attend service, the mob followed them all the way up, pelting them with stones, tomatoes, and with all sorts of rubbish.

When they reached Miss Leyburn's house, Righa and his family rushed in and shut the door, but the mob still remained there screaming, and beating, in the absence of drums, gas tin-cases, and throwing stones and rubbish at the windows.

Mr. Mercurio, one of these American missionaries, had courage enough to get out of the house and run to the Kaimakam's residence to ask for assistance. Miss Leyburn went also to M. Zabanski's house, where you reside when at Volo, to claim British protection, but they were both ill-treated in the same manner as they did to Righa.

Strange to say, that, although M. Zabanski is well aware that I am in charge of the British Vice-Consulate of Volo in your absence, he, instead of sending Miss Leyburn to me, advised her to go to Mr. Mariehich, the Austrian Vice-Consul, who refused to protect her; the poor lady was obliged to return home, accompanied and ill-treated by the mob. In short, the Kaimakam and the military authorities, with sufficient strength, arrived on the spot and succeeded to disperse the rioters.

On the 22nd instant, late in the afternoon, Miss Leyburn addressed a petition to me, by which she claims the British protection, in the absence of an American Consul, and redress for the insults that she and all the other American missionaries have received. When Mr. Consul Blunt telegraphed to me on the 23rd instant, requesting me to give every protection to the American missionaries, I had already given to the local authority the names of some of the rioters, requesting him to arrest them at once and to take immediate steps towards securing these missionaries from further insults and annoyance.

It was desired that the Medjlis was to assemble to-day to make the necessary investigations respecting this scandalous affair, but as Miss Leyburn has received last night from Athens a telegraphic despatch from the American Embassy of that capital, informing her that a man-of-war was ordered to come to Volo, she begged me to suspend the prosecution of this affair until the arrival of this ship, so that the Commander may be present also when this investigation will take place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. W. BORRELL.

No. 312.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 397.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 9, 1878.*

THREE Mussulmans, who have been sent from Mount Rhodope to place in my hands the inclosed petition to be presented to Her Majesty's Government, called upon me on the 7th instant. They appeared to be honest and straightforward people, and spoke with moderation and good sense about the condition of the population of the district from which they came, and of the unfortunate Mussulmans that have taken refuge there. They described their sufferings and the cruel treatment that the inhabitants of the villages in the plains had received from the Russians and Bulgarians. They said that although Mahommedan villages had been destroyed and plundered, and their inhabitants exposed to grievous outrages within sight of Rhodope, no Christian village and no Christians had been molested by the Pomaks. The Mussulmans, who were now defending their own lives and property, had scrupulously respected, and would continue to do so, those of the Christians who dwelt amongst them. They further said that they were threatened with a fresh attack from the Russians, who had called upon them to lay down their arms within ten days. They were determined not to do so, but to hold out to the very last, and to sacrifice their lives and those of their wives and children, rather than submit to Russian and Bulgarian rule. They begged me to ask Her Majesty's Government to protect them.

I told them that in consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Government, the Emperor of Russia had given orders to the Russian authorities to permit the fugitives to return their villages, and not to molest the inhabitants of Mount Rhodope, who would not be attacked if they refrained from committing acts of hostility against the Russian troops. I expressed my hope that, such being the case, the Russians would not carry out their threat if they received no provocation. I recommended them

to return to their people and to urge them to continue to remain strictly on the defensive. I pointed out to them that they were mistaken in their belief that they were to be placed under Bulgarian rule, and that, by the Treaty of Berlin, only a small part of the territory inhabited by the Pomaks of Mount Rhodope would apparently be included in the new province of Eastern Roumelia.

They appeared satisfied with my assurances and explanations, and left me promising that they would do their best to induce their countrymen to abstain from any act of aggression on the Russians, and that they would continue to protect the Christians from molestation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 312.

Pétition.

(Traduction.)
A l'Ambassade d'Angleterre,

LES Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du district de Karadjn-Aalé, au nombre de 35,000, ont été mortellement affectés d'apprendre que leur pays vient d'être incorporé à la Bulgarie.

Les Soussignés ne sauraient accepter un pareil arrangement et préféreraient périr jusqu'au dernier plutôt que de s'y soumettre.

Les Soussignés désirent rester dans la sujetion Ottomane et s'en réfèrent, pour épargner l'effusion de sang, à la justice de l'Europe, en priant que leur pétition soit, par le canal du Cabinet Britannique, communiqué aux Cabinets des Grandes Puissances.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 12 Juillet, 1878.

No. 313.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 998. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 10, 1878.

MEHEMET ALI PASHA, who has recently arrived from Vienna, has informed me very confidentially that, a few hours before the Treaty of Berlin was signed, he and his colleague, Alexander Carathéodory Pasha, gave Count Andrassy to understand that, unless some agreement was come to between them with respect to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, they might have to withhold their signatures from the Treaty. Count Andrassy thereupon consented to enter into one to the effect: first, that the occupation of the two provinces by Austria should not compromise the sovereign rights of the Sultan; secondly, that it should be of a temporary character; and, thirdly, that an arrangement should be come to with the Porte as to the manner in which it was to be carried out before the Austrian troops crossed the frontiers. This Agreement was signed by Count Andrassy and the two other Austrian Plenipotentiaries at the Congress.

Mehemet Ali Pasha said that the Agreement was sent to Constantinople, and that he was at a loss to understand how it was that the Turkish Government had not availed itself fully of it in its recent negotiations with Austria. I asked him whether it had been communicated to your Lordship and the other Plenipotentiaries. He replied that it had not, as Count Andrassy insisted that it should be kept secret. But your Lordship may not be ignorant of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 314.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 999.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 10, 1878.

CONSUL SANDWITH, in his despatch to me of the 1st instant, copy of which he has sent to your Lordship, informs me that after consulting with two influential Christians, whom he considers trustworthy exponents of the opinions and views of their fellow Cretans, he is in a position to suggest seven conditions for the pacification of the Island of Crete, which would be accepted by the National Assembly if acceded to by the Porte. Mr. Sandwith had already sent these conditions to me by telegraph, and I at once submitted them to the Grand Vizier, who, so far from offering any objection to them, informed me that he considered them not unreasonable, and as affording a basis for the settlement of the Cretan question in a manner satisfactory to the Christian population of the island and to Europe. At my suggestion his Highness agreed to name, without delay, two Commissioners, a Mahommedan and a Christian, to proceed at once to Crete, to place themselves in communication with the Christian Chiefs and the National Assembly, in order to bring about a peaceable settlement on the terms proposed by Mr. Sandwith. His Highness begged me, at the same time, to request Mr. Sandwith to use his good offices, and to offer his mediation as Her Majesty's Consul to effect an understanding between them.

I have since received a telegram from Mr. Sandwith, dated the 8th instant, asking me whether I thought the Porte could be induced to accord a Principality, or autonomy, for Crete, as such an arrangement appeared to him to be the only one that was likely to be lasting. He adds that the feeling against the Organic Law would be stronger when it was known that the Christians would not have a majority in the administrative, judicial, and other bodies. He further expresses his opinion that it would be unadvisable to withdraw the administration of the island, even temporarily, from Costaki Pasha.

It appears to me that the views expressed by Mr. Sandwith in this telegram are inconsistent with those he has put forward in his above-mentioned despatch and in previous telegrams. After I have informed the Grand Vizier, on the authority of Her Majesty's Consul, that the Cretan Chiefs are disposed to treat with the Porte on certain terms, which have been accepted, and after a Commission is about to be sent to come to an arrangement with the Cretan National Assembly upon them, I do not think that it would be advisable for me to press upon the Porte different and much harder conditions, to which it is not likely to accede. I shall not, therefore, say anything on the subject to Safvet Pasha. I trust that the desire expressed by his Highness to meet the reasonable demands of the Cretans; and the conciliatory and liberal spirit which I have every reason to hope will be shown by the Turkish Commissioners, will lead to a satisfactory settlement.

I may observe that the terms mentioned by Mr. Sandwith do not include one which requires that the Christians shall have a majority in all the administrative, judicial, and other bodies in the island. Safvet Pasha mentioned this condition as one which the Christians might put forward, and which he could not in principle accept. I confess to thinking that his Highness is right.

In his recent despatches Mr. Sandwith has led me to believe that Costaki Pasha was not discharging his duties in a manner calculated to give satisfaction either to the Christians or Mussulmans of the island; I was not, therefore, disposed to question the wisdom of the Grand Vizier's decision to recall him, and to place the administration of the island in the hands of the Commissioners, until arrangements could be made for its future government under the new order of things. There is a suspicion at the Porte, which may not be unfounded, that Costaki Pasha is intriguing to have the island made into a Principality like Samos, of which he aims at being the Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 315.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1000.)

Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has no doubt received, through the Lords of the Admiralty, a copy of the letter addressed by General Todleben to Admiral Hornby, explaining the conduct of the Russian soldiers in taking prisoners two officers belonging to Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," and in firing upon a boat belonging to that vessel. Admiral Hornby having been good enough to communicate to me a copy of General Todleben's letter, I suggested that it should be submitted to Captain Salmon for any observations that he might have to make upon the statements that it contains. He has now transmitted to me Captain Salmon's reply, a copy of which was sent to the Admiralty on the 9th instant.

I have reason to believe that Admiral Hornby considers the explanations offered by General Todleben as, on the whole, satisfactory. There is not much difference between the report of the officers of the "Swiftsure" and that of the Russians. Both agree that the boat captured was not a regular man-of-war's boat, and that the persons taken in her were not in officers' uniform. The steam pinnace which went in search of the officers began her communications after dark, and through a Greek interpreter, who appears to have been none of the best. The firing on each day is admitted. On the first it is excused on the score of a boat approaching at night an outpost without permission; on the second it is admitted that a mistake or accident occurred. The man in fault is said to have been punished, and General Todleben has expressed his regret at the occurrence.

Under these circumstances I have not thought it desirable to make any further representations to Prince Labanoff, leaving it to your Lordship to decide whether the matter should now be dropped or not.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 316.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1002.)

Therapia, August 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I CALLED yesterday on General Todleben at San Stefano. His Excellency had just received a telegram from the Emperor of Russia, dated that morning, which he was good enough to read to me. It stated that His Imperial Majesty was only waiting to obtain some details as to the occupation of the fortresses round Varna by his troops to give orders for the immediate embarkation of his armies, and for their removal from the neighbourhood of Constantinople. His Imperial Majesty added that he hoped that the British fleet would now be withdrawn beyond the Dardanelles, according to the arrangement entered into with the British Government, and that he would send orders to Prince Labanoff to place himself in communication with me, in order to come to an understanding with me on the subject.

General Todleben informed me that he had been discussing with Ghazi Osman Pasha, who left the room as I entered, the arrangements to be made for the retreat of such of the Russian forces as were to fall back upon Adrianople, and for the maintenance of order and tranquillity in the country which they abandoned. He proposed, he said, to embark the troops that were to be sent to Russia by water at four points on the Sea of Marmora—San Stefano, Silivria, Ereghli, and Rodosto. Piers were being constructed at those places for the purpose. As the Russian troops retired he wished the Turks to advance. But the Porte should previously name, and without loss of time, the functionaries who were to take over the charge of the districts now under Russian authority. He wished these functionaries to go behind the retiring Russian forces, so as to be ready to assume their functions, supported by troops or police, as soon as the Russian authorities had left. As the movement of withdrawal from Tchataldja and Rodosto would be simultaneous, he hoped that, through the precautions he thus proposed to take, order would be maintained and the population protected.

His Excellency told me that he intended to go first to Rodosto, then to Adrianople, and afterwards to Aidos, to superintend the embarkation of the last Russian troops from that part of the Turkish territory which was to be at once restored to the Sultan under the Treaty of Berlin. He should then return to Russia by way of Varna.

General Todleben said that he expected the orders for the embarkation of the Russian troops on the following morning, and that he hoped to commence it in about ten days, the contracts for transports having already been concluded with a Russian Steam Navigation Company.

I received to day a letter (copy inclosed) from Prince Labanoff, informing me that orders have been sent by the Emperor of Russia to General Todleben for the embarkation and withdrawal of the Russian forces from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and that he has been instructed to acquaint me with these orders in pursuance of the arrangement come to between the Imperial Government and that of Her Majesty for the simultaneous retreat of the Russian army and the British fleet. In reply I thanked his Excellency for his communication, and stated to him that I should at once submit it to your Lordship and ask for instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 316.

Prince Labanoff to Sir A. H. Layard.

Ambassade Impériale de Russie, Buyukdéré,

le $\frac{29 \text{ Juillet}}{11 \text{ Août}}$, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

SA Majesté l'Empereur, ayant reçu la nouvelle de l'évacuation de Varna par les troupes Ottomanes, a daigné ordonner à M. le Général Todleben de procéder à l'embarquement et au mouvement de retraite des troupes Russes des environs de Constantinople. Conformément aux arrangements intervenus entre le Gouvernement Impérial et celui de Sa Majesté Britannique relativement à la retraite simultanée de l'armée Russe et de la flotte Anglaise, j'ai eu l'ordre de prévenir votre Excellence de cette dispositon.

En m'acquittant de ce devoir je saisis, &c.

(Signé) LABANOFF.

No. 317.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1004.)

Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 874 of 31st July, I have the honour to state that, on receipt of your Lordship's telegram of 17th ultimo, I informed Her Majesty's Consul in Bulgaria that the Russian Government had instructed its authorities in that province to recognize foreign Consuls as officially accredited Agents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 318.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1008.)

Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH the Treaty of Berlin and the Protocols of the sittings of the Congress have not been communicated to me officially, I trust that I may be allowed to submit to your Lordship some observations with regard to them. It would be beyond my province to express any opinions as to the past; but it may be within my duty to place before your Lordship what in my judgment may be the effect in the

future, as regards this Empire, of the great international arrangement recently concluded in the German capital. No one could be more impressed than I am with the grave difficulties with which Her Majesty's Government have had to contend in effecting a settlement which, whilst preserving to the Sultan a precarious rule in Turkey in Europe, maintains the interests and influence of England in the East. My conviction has not been shaken that the war between Russia and Turkey might have been prevented in 1876, that it might have been stopped in the middle of last year, and that England might have turned it to the destruction of the ambitious designs of Russia after the preliminary peace of San Stefano. But, whilst holding these views, I am bound to admit that they may have been formed without a sufficient knowledge of the many circumstances upon which alone a correct judgment could be founded. My observations have been limited to the immediate sphere of my duties as Her Majesty's Representative in Turkey. I may, most probably, be ignorant of various complicated and paramount considerations connected with our foreign relations, and with internal affairs, which must guide the conduct and policy of a Government in such momentous questions as have been raised during the last two years, and I have not had to face the responsibility which must have weighed upon those who were called upon to decide upon them. I believe that the war might have been prevented and stopped by other means than a recourse on the part of England to arms; but after the defeat and utter prostration of Turkey, and the presence of the Russian army before Constantinople, it would probably have been impossible to restore to the Sultan any considerable portion of the territories he had lost without war. Every Christian people would shrink from entering upon a war involving great sacrifices, whatever might be its ultimate results. They would rather accept any compromise which did not materially affect their interests or their honour. In this light the Treaty of Berlin must be considered. It is a compromise, and not a settlement, of the Turkish question. It has deprived Russia of some of the results of her victory. It has saved Turkey from some of the results of her defeat; but it leaves undecided many vital questions, and has not removed all those elements of disorder and strife which existed in the Turkish Empire previous to the war ostensibly entered upon to remove them. The result of the Treaty of San Stefano most dangerous to general European interests was the creation of what has been termed a "big Bulgaria." The limits assigned to this semi-independent tributary province were fatal to the further existence of the Turkish Empire in Europe. The control and supervision under which it was to have been placed would have rendered it virtually a mere Russian dependency. Its extension to the coasts of the Ægean and Black Seas threatened to give to Russia hereafter a maritime strength dangerous to Europe, and especially to England. It was especially intended to absorb the Greek race into the Slav, and to destroy its future. General Ignatieff did not hesitate to avow that the Mussulman population would no longer be allowed to exist in the provinces which Russia had conquered. In a word, the Treaty of San Stefano was made solely in Slav interests, and for the undisguised object of securing, within a very short period, the complete triumph of the policy which Russia has steadily pursued for the destruction of the Turkish Empire and the possession of its remains, and especially of Constantinople.

The Treaty of Berlin has unquestionably retarded the accomplishment of the designs of Russia. But has it defeated them altogether, or, as Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff is reported to have said, will the play now be performed in two acts instead of one? The tributary Principality of Bulgaria has been confined to the territory between the Danube and the Balkans. The authority and rule of the Sultan have been restored to the south of that mountain chain, although considerably restricted by the formation of the autonomous Province of Eastern Roumelia. Turkey has received a frontier which, whether effective or not against a future Russian invasion, forms at least a well-defined line of demarcation between semi-independent Bulgaria and the territories under the direct authority of the Sultan. She may fortify the mountain passes and the ports that remain to her on the Black Sea, and she may employ for her defence the forces that she may think necessary. The Greek and other races have, for the time, been freed from Slav oppression and interference, and under the more tolerant rule of the Turks will be able to develop their respective nationalities, to enjoy religious freedom, and to prepare for their future.

These are amongst the favourable results obtained by the Treaty of Berlin, and they are of no small importance to Europe, and especially to Turkey, if she will profit by them. But, on the other hand, the Treaty has left unsettled many grave questions, and may contain the elements of future disorders and wars. I would venture to point out the dangers against which it will be necessary to guard.

It is to be regretted that it should have been necessary to cede Sophia and the districts to the south of it to Bulgaria. Whether the former limits of the vilayet to the north would have afforded a frontier less easily defended than the one now assigned to Roumelia, is a military question, upon which I may not be competent to express an opinion, but a glance at the map representing the territorial changes in Turkey in Europe effected by the Treaty of Berlin will show that the true line of the Balkans has been overstepped, and that the effect of placing Sophia in the possession of Bulgaria must be to encourage the Bulgarians to the south of the Balkans to aim at the union of Eastern Roumelia with the new Principality, and must facilitate the intrigues of Russo-Bulgarian agents for that object. If such be the case, and if the possession of Sophia, as asserted on high authority, would enable an invading army to turn the Balkans, and to advance without serious opposition into Macedonia, if not into Eastern Roumelia, it is to be feared that its loss to Turkey will be fatal to the continued existence of the latter province as a part of the Turkish Empire.

The surrender of Varna to Bulgaria cannot but be a source of danger to Turkey, and threatening to the future peace and tranquillity of her European provinces; not that as a strategical position it would have been of the same value to Turkey as it was when the "quadrilateral," which it formed with Shumla, Rasteluk, and Silistria, was still in her hands. Still, the possession of this port by the Turks would have given them considerable military advantages in case Russian troops again crossed the Danube, and would have enabled them to maintain an efficient control over the new tributary Principality. Varna may now become an open door for Russia into Bulgaria, and consequently into Roumelia. The Slav Committees, who will not cease their work of conspiracy and disorder, may probably transfer from Bucharest to this town the centre of their operations and intrigues. In a future war, Russia would find through Varna an easy access to the very heart of European Turkey. It is true that as long as the Porte, or a Power in alliance with it, commands the Black Sea, the communications between Varna and the Russian coasts could be interrupted. But Russia has the habit of preparing her measures and putting them into execution before declaring war. She would probably find abundant excuses, which Turkey, if unsupported by Europe, as she probably would be, would be under the necessity of accepting, to place supplies of arms and ammunition, and even of men, in Varna, before actually entering upon hostilities.

Under the Treaty of Berlin Bulgaria may be considered as severed from Turkey. It is not probable that the slight tie which holds them together will be long maintained. Under any circumstances the Principality will be more or less under Russian control, and will form a basis for her intrigues in European Turkey, and, in the event of a future war, for military operations. Nothing that England, or even Europe, will now do can prevent this being the case. The position of the Principality itself, especially with regard to Foreign Powers, will be an anomalous one. The existence of such tributary semi-independent States would appear to be, moreover, inconsistent with the political principles upon which in modern times international relations have been founded. Who is to be responsible for its misdeeds, or for its breaches of Treaty? Its own Government, or the suzerain Power? It would be unjust to throw the responsibility upon the latter, whilst it is absolutely forbidden to interfere in the affairs of the Principality, and cannot control or direct any of its acts. If the Bulgarian Government violates, for instance, any of the stipulations contained in the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, would a foreign Power, whose subjects or interests are injured thereby, be able to resort to war to obtain redress? Again, how will it be possible to ensure the due execution of the VIth Article, providing for religious equality? Can it be believed that a fanatic and ignorant race, left without sufficient control, will respect the faith or religious institutions of others? Religious hatreds are far more lasting and deadly than the feuds of race amongst the Christians of Turkey. Before many years have passed, the Mussulmans who may remain in the Principality may be exterminated by some savage massacre, or be driven out by unbearable ill-treatment and persecution.

The autonomous Province of Eastern Roumelia will be in a very different position from the Bulgarian Principality. The Sultan will exercise some political and military authority over it. Much will depend upon the Governor, who may be chosen by the Porte, with the consent of the Powers, to administer its affairs. If he be a man of energy, of liberal views, independent of foreign influences, and loyal to his Sovereign, he may be able to frustrate the intrigues of Russia or of Bulgaria to detach the province from Turkey. But his task will be a difficult one. Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff has boasted, it would appear, that he will take good care that the influence

of Russia will be so fully established in the province before its occupation by her ceases, and the arrangements for its future annexation to Bulgaria will be so far complete that but a short interval will occur before it forms part of that Principality. The fulfilment of this prediction will depend upon the manner in which the province is governed. If its Christian, Greek, Bulgarian, and Catholic communities, and the Mussulmans (supposing they are allowed to return) are satisfied and prosperous, and their condition contrasts favourably with that of the inhabitants on the other side of the Balkans, it will be to their interest to maintain their connection with the Porte, and Eastern Roumelia may afford a proof that a mixed population, including a large Mussulman element, may live contented under the sovereignty of the Sultan. If, on the other hand, the province is badly governed, and discontent prevails in it, there can be little doubt that foreign intrigues will produce disorders, which will end, sooner or later, in an attempt, and probably a successful one, to detach it altogether from Turkey, and to unite it to Bulgaria.

It is stated that secret revolutionary Committees, whose object it is to promote insurrection and the Pan-Bulgarian cause, have already commenced their work in Roumelia.

The preparation of the administrative, judicial, and financial regulations for the new province, to be confided under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty to an European Commission, will require the greatest care and consideration. It will depend mainly upon them whether the authority of the Governor to be named by the Sultan can be sufficiently strengthened and maintained to enable him to exercise the necessary control over the province confided to his charge. A right of interference on the part of Councils and similar bodies, which may be a mischievous restraint upon the Governor, or enable him to avoid action and to shirk responsibility, should be carefully guarded against. As much power as may be consistent with his position, and with the rights assured to the population, should be secured to him. The "Mejlis" has been one of the causes of administrative disorder in the provinces, and of their present unfortunate condition. It is to be hoped, moreover, that the system which requires the Judges to be selected by popular suffrage will not be introduced into Eastern Roumelia, as it has been in Mount Lebanon and Crete. It has worked very ill, I am assured, in both those provinces, and its existence is incompatible with a real reform of the Tribunals and with the impartial administration of justice. It would be very desirable that the Turkish member of the Commission should have had some practical experience of the working of the "Règlement" of Lebanon or of Crete.

I would further express a hope that the Province of Eastern Roumelia will continue to send Representatives to the Chambers should they be again summoned to meet at Constantinople. I have pointed out elsewhere the great importance I attach to the representation of all the Turkish provinces, whether autonomous or not, in the National Assembly, as affording the only chance of keeping together the disjointed members of this Empire.

I would venture to repeat what I have said in a previous despatch,* that it appears to be unwise and inconsistent with the principles of perfect religious freedom and equality that we are calling upon the Porte to respect, that it should be provided by Treaty that the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia should be a Christian. The essential thing is that he should be a good and competent ruler. To restrict the choice to a Christian limits it to an extent which may prove prejudicial to the interests of the province itself. Moreover, it appears to be unjust to the Mussulman population. There are Mahommedans who would make better Governors than any Christian I know; and it appears to me that it is equally in the interest of Europe and Turkey that the Turks should be encouraged and taught to govern well mixed populations in which the Christian element may preponderate. Experience may perhaps prove that there is less danger from religious intolerance and persecution when Christians of different creeds and sects are placed under Mahommedan rule than under that of one of themselves. As by the XVIIth Article the Governor is to be named with the assent of the Powers, an incompetent person, whether Christian, or Mahommedan, or Jew, might have been rejected, and it appears, therefore, unnecessary and illiberal to confine the selection to the members of one faith.

Turkey has unquestionably gained greatly by receiving from the Congress a defensible mountain frontier, although the results of the last war may show that the fortified passes of the Balkans can be turned. The Turkish Government should lose no time in obtaining the best military advice for placing it in a condition for defence. According to the military authorities that I have been able to consult,

* No. 936 of 23rd July.

Bourgas has now become a position of paramount importance for the defence of Roumelia and for the safety of Adrianople, and even of Constantinople. The site of the town of Bourgas is not, I understand, the best position to fortify and to convert into a naval station. A better is to be found in the bay to the south of it, which, according to Baker Pasha, might be made of the greatest strength. In the event, however, of a future war with Russia, and in consequence of the facility of access which the possession of Sophia will give to the provinces south of the Balkans, the lines of Buyuk Tchekmedjé and Bulair must now form the principal as well as the last defences of what remains to the Sultan of his territories in Europe and of his capital. The Porte should, therefore, lose no time in completing and arming them, and in rendering them as strong as possible.

By the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty, a "Règlement Organique," analogous to that accorded to Crete, is to be applied to such parts of Turkey in Europe for which a special organization has not been provided. I presume that this stipulation would not extend to such changes in the Organic Law as are now demanded by the Cretans, and which, if granted by the Porte, would give a large amount of "autonomy" to the island. It also appears to me that there are some provisions in the "Règlement Organique" of Crete, especially the one to which I have already referred, making the Judges elective, which do not seem to have worked well, and which it would not be desirable to extend to other parts of Turkey. If the Porte is to reform the Tribunals and to improve the administration of justice, it is more likely to do so by employing trained and competent Judges than persons elected to the office by universal suffrage. It is worthy of remark that no mention whatever seems to have been made by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of the Turkish Constitution and of the Chambers. Yet they might have referred with effect to this proof of the Sultan's desire to give free institutions to his people, institutions which Russia does not enjoy. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that the germs of future liberty and national prosperity which the Constitution affords will not be entirely crushed out by the work of the Congress. The success attending the first two sessions of the Chambers was sufficient to encourage the belief that in the course of time they might become the best means of reforming the Turkish Empire, if there be any vitality left in it. I have expressed my opinion on this subject so fully on other occasions that it is unnecessary for me to repeat it here. Amongst the measures to be taken for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, and for the introduction of the reforms contemplated by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty, into other parts of Turkey, including Crete, the principle of national representation should not, I venture to think, be overlooked. If there is to be a Turkish Empire, and if the Turks themselves are to carry out the fundamental reforms necessary to the regeneration of their country, I am convinced that it must be mainly through a great representative Council of the nation, such as the Chambers would be, for it is scarcely to be expected that they can become a Parliament, in our acceptation of the term, for many years to come.

Now that Her Majesty's Government have concluded the Convention of the 4th June, the commanding position in Asia given to Russia by her possession of Batoum and of the strong places of Kars and Ardahan may be less dangerous to Turkey and to British interests and influence in the East. But it will still afford her an important basis for military operations in time of war, and for carrying on her intrigues amongst the Christian populations in time of peace. Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha informs me that the frontier line in Asia, which Russia induced the Congress to accord to her, is fatal to the existence of Erzeroum, as, by passing through Medjingert, it deprives the city of the use of the forests upon which it entirely depends for firewood, an absolute necessity in the high region in which it is situated, and for wood for building purposes. If, as he states, the population will consequently have to migrate to Erzinghian, or elsewhere, the country traversed by the route to Persia may become so deficient in necessary supplies that it will no longer be used by caravans, and the foreign trade would suffer in consequence.

The declaration of the Emperor of Russia in the LIXth Article of the Treaty that Batoum shall be a free port, "essentially commercial," will probably be respected as long as Russia thinks it convenient and consistent with her interests to observe it. But even if she does not make a naval station of this important harbour, it will be of little advantage to foreign commerce as a free port if she adheres to her present commercial system. The remarkable despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Tabreez of the 12th June, transmitted to your Lordship by this day's messenger, seems to prove that not only by exacting high protective duties, but by insisting upon money deposits which no merchant can afford to make, she virtually excludes foreign goods from

Russian territories. That the possession of Batoum is of immense advantage to Russia, whether for commerce or for war, can scarcely be doubted when we consider the tenacity with which she has, during a considerable period of time, worked for its acquisition.

It is, I think, unfortunate that the Congress permitted the phrase of "les provinces habitées par les Arméniens," which was used in the Treaty of San Stefano, to be retained in the LIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. I do not see the object of limiting the reforms to be conceded to the populations of Asia Minor to such provinces. The expression is at the same time extremely vague, as there are Armenians in most parts of Asia Minor. As the Porte binds itself to communicate the measures it may take to carry out those reforms periodically to the Powers, who are to watch over and superintend ("surveiller") their application, a right of interference would appear to be given to Russia and to the other Signatories of the Treaty, which may prove very dangerous to Turkey. We may find Russia again assuming to herself the task of carrying war into the territories of the Sultan, as the "mandatory" of Europe, to redress the grievances of the Christians. May not this right of interference, which, as experience proves, may be amplified to any extent, and may be used by Russia for the promotion of her own ambitious designs, clash with the agreement entered into between Her Majesty's Government and the Porte for the introduction of reforms into the Sultan's Asiatic territories? The LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin may have the effect of reducing ere long the authority of the Sultan in Asia Minor to the same condition that it has been reduced to in his European dominions, and it may be the first step towards destroying it altogether in Asia, where it is to the interest of Europe to maintain it.

It could scarcely have been expected that Russia would have consented to a reduction in any of those rights of protection which she has long assumed with regard to certain religious communities and establishments, and which she has so greatly abused. They have been amongst the principal means she has so effectively employed to undermine the authority of the Porte, and to produce disorder in Turkey, with a view to accomplishing her designs upon this Empire. But I cannot but think that a dangerous sanction and extension has been given to them, as well as to similar claims on the part of other Powers, by some parts of the LXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and especially by that paragraph of it which accords to Diplomatic Agents and Consuls a right of protection over ecclesiastics, pilgrims, and monks, and over religious and charitable establishments and others ("et autres"). What the other establishments may be is by no means clear, nor is it evident why any special protection should be required for persons having a religious character, who enjoy the same protection that is ensured by the capitulations and by Treaties to all foreigners in Turkey, with but few exceptions. Is it intended that Bulgarians and Roumelians should be included in it, and, if so, is it Russia who is to exercise it? It may be anticipated that this clause will give rise hereafter to many difficulties, and that it may become the pretext for a further quarrel with Turkey, should one be needed. It revives and continues those exceptional, and, it was to be hoped, obsolete privileges, upon which the capitulations are founded, and which have led to such disastrous results to the Turkish Empire.

It is to be regretted that the question of the indemnity to be paid in money to Russia by Turkey was not settled in a more satisfactory manner at Berlin. Although certain guaranteed debts of the Porte appear to take precedence of it, yet it must remain as a heavy burden upon the people and resources of the Empire, and a ready pretext for Russian interference. It was stated, on high authority, that the Emperor of Russia, during the negotiations at San Stefano, and subsequently, I believe, to Raouf Pasha at St. Petersburgh, expressed his intention of making a considerable reduction in the money indemnity, and it is well known that the amount of the whole indemnity as fixed by General Ignatieff far exceeded the sum to which Russia had any right, even admitting the justice of her demand, and that a great part of it was founded upon fictitious claims which would not bear examination.

It is to be remarked that in the Treaty of Berlin scarcely any mention is made of the Mussulman populations, nor is any special protection accorded to them as to the Christians. It is true that they are supposed to be guaranteed the free exercise of their faith by those clauses which are intended to secure general religious toleration. But, unfortunately, there is little hope that those stipulations will be respected where the Mahommedans would have most need of protection. The work of persecution against them, which has been so ruthlessly commenced in Bulgaria, will scarcely be discontinued, and the European Powers will be unable to arrest it without having recourse to means which they would be unwilling to employ.

One of the gravest objections that may be advanced against the Treaty of Berlin is that it would appear to give European sanction to a new principle of public and international law, of dangerous tendency and of doubtful morality. The application of this principle to the relations of private life would enable a man who coveted his neighbour's house to establish a right to it by corrupting the servants, taking possession of the hall, and robbing the larder. For several years past Austria has wished to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina. She fomented troubles in them, the frontier authorities allowed arms to be sent freely to the insurgents, she protected them when they crossed the frontier into her territory, allowed them to go back, and threw every difficulty in the way of the Porte when it sought to extinguish the insurrection. She demands the possession of those provinces on the pretext that she must put down the disorders of which she herself has been the cause. Servia, with a contempt for justice and moral obligations of which history can scarcely furnish one example, seizes the moment of Turkey's defeat and prostration to invade her without even a colourable pretext, and is rewarded by an accession of territory. Roumania enters into an alliance with Russia to make war upon her Suzerain, with whom she was at peace, and against whom she had no cause whatever of complaint. She, too, receives her recompense in additional territory and independence. Montenegro is encouraged to carry war into peaceful districts by the promise that all she can filch from Turkey she will be allowed to retain.

Greece takes advantage of insurrections which she has fomented in the border provinces, and of the presence of Greek brigand bands in them, to demand them as her right, and reluctantly consents to accept, for the present, a part of them, "to rectify her frontier." The manner in which Russia has been acting for the last century upon the same principle is too notorious to require special notice. She has now achieved a final success by inducing Europe to accept that principle.

It has been said that if Turkey had not been misgoverned, and if her populations had not been discontented, the disorders and insurrections which have given rise to foreign interference would not have taken place. This is, no doubt, true to a great extent. But it may be questioned whether any State, however powerful, could have maintained its independence and its integrity had it been placed in the same circumstances as the Turkish Empire. Is it probable that Russia would long hold together if foreigners were at liberty to reside in her territories—as, for instance, in Poland—without restraint, protected by laws not her own, and allowed to conspire freely against her institutions and her Government under such protection, if a powerful neighbouring State not only gave encouragement and support through innumerable official and secret agents to these conspiracies, but was prepared to go to war to prevent the suppression of the troubles and insurrections to which they gave rise, and if plots against the authority and rule of the Sovereign were directed by the Representative of a Power with which he was at peace? Could Germany or Austria keep their Polish provinces under such conditions? Could England retain India, or even Ireland?

I have ventured to submit to your Lordship the foregoing observations, which are far from including all the objections that might be made to the Treaty of Berlin, not to criticize it, which it would be impertinent in me, and beyond my duties, to do; but to point out, very respectfully, the dangers which, in my opinion, threaten this country in consequence of some of its provisions. The Treaty itself has secured present peace to Europe, and has undoubtedly given Turkey another chance of regaining her position both as an European and as an Asiatic Power, if she be willing and able to take advantage of it. It has unquestionably placed a check upon the accomplishment of the traditional policy of Russia in the East. If Austria has occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to protect European Turkey against further encroachments on the part of Russia, and to assist the Porte in establishing good government and a just administration in its remaining provinces, rather than with the object of preparing the way for future acquisitions of territory, she may give Turkey the strength and repose needed to re-establish and consolidate the authority of the Sultan in them. These are very great results obtained by the Treaty, and may fully justify any sacrifices that it was necessary to make to secure them. But we must not shut our eyes to the fact that the arrangements come to at Berlin, so far from having "settled" the Eastern question, may contain the seeds of future disorders and troubles, if not of future wars. The impulse given to aspirations and pretensions of "nationalities," and the sanction afforded to the new political doctrine of "autonomy," are already producing their fruits. Greeks, Albanians, Armenians, Pomaks, Bulgarians, Servians, and the innumerable other races scattered over the Turkish Empire are encouraged to believe that they have each their special political

rights, and a future, which have been sacrificed, for a time, to brute force or to political necessities. Those who think themselves strong enough to support their aspirations by arms will be ready to rebel against the authority under which they believe they have been placed in violation of justice and of the principle of "nationality." Those who cannot recur to force will have recourse to intrigue and conspiracy. Both processes have already begun. It would require a wiser and stronger Government than that of the Porte, unless some great change takes place in it and it is supported by Europe, to arrest them. If foreign Powers interfere, as they will probably do hereafter, it may be with the object of promoting their own special and particular interests. It would be difficult to say at this moment whether Russia has lost or gained most by the Treaty of Berlin. If its provisions are firmly and thoroughly maintained, her traditional policy with regard to the Turkish Empire will have received a check from which she may not be able to recover, and the dangers anticipated from the extension of the power of the Slav race, and its consequent supremacy in Eastern Europe, may be removed. But if, on the contrary, Europe permits the terms and spirit of the Treaty to be violated as soon as Russia thinks that she is so strong, or that the political situation is such, that she may do so with impunity, she will find herself in a better position than she has ever been before to carry out the designs attributed to her for the destruction of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 1009.)

Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a further letter from Colonel St. Clair on the state of affairs in the Rhodope Mountains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Colonel St. Clair to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Gabrova Camp, Rhodope, July 23, 1878.

Sir,

THE reported decisions of the Congress have brought about a situation fraught with danger incalculable, and I feel it my sacred duty to enter into some details respecting the state of the country which has elected me as Commander-in-chief and Dictator, and which is still, and will continue, in arms so long as some arrangements, not so impossible as those of in any way submitting to Russia or her wishes, will not be decided upon by Europe.

This preamble ought to prove to your Excellency that the Russians, in stating that this our resistance was at an end, are as untruthful as in their so loudly proclaimed desire to pacify and reorganize the East, as well as the fact that the Congress, which has assembled to render the East happy, has decided upon means which must bring about bloodshed and massacre.

The facts of our case are as follows:—

After the battle of Ichtiman (10th January, 1878), Suleiman and Safvet Pashas retired through the Rhodope. Although the armistice was concluded, the Russo-Bulgarians murdered all the Mussulman refugees they could seize.

The number of the victims of both sexes and all ages is incalculable; but from the heaps of human remains I have seen these are over 20,000. The population then fled, but shortly after was enticed to return by the Russian authorities. A little later, and when the people had returned to their homes, several columns of Russo-Bulgarians began a systematical raid on the villages, plundering, ravishing, and murdering. Upon this the peasants flew to arms, and drove the Russians out of the Rhodope.

From that date forward continual skirmishes raged between pillaging bands of Bulgarians, mixed with Cossacks, until the middle of April, when these bands were thoroughly defeated, and driven across the plains to the shores of the Maritza.

Upon this happening the Russian Governor of Hasskeui begged for reinforcements, and a column, consisting of eleven battalions of regular Russian infantry, two batteries, and two regiments of cavalry, together with a host of Bulgarians of over 10,000 men, appeared at Kuvarlyk, and summoned the mountain Chiefs to surrender.

As these brave men knew that to surrender was to die without honour, they refused to do so. However, some ten or twelve villages lower in the plain surrendered, and have, in consequence, been the scenes of atrocities far worse than those reported to have taken place in Bulgaria during the Turkish repression of the revolt. On the 15th April the Russians attacked the poor people, whose only chance to save life, property, or honour, was to conquer or to die. During nine days the Russians stormed the comparatively weak positions of Gabrova, defended by hardly 700 men, and at last were defeated, and driven from the field with a very heavy loss (over 1,200).

During this battle atrocities were committed by the Russo-Bulgarians in the villages which had surrendered, and a list of which, certified by eye-witnesses, I inclose.

Shamefully defeated, the Russians, finding that their usual mode of treating insurgents, that of terrorizing them, had failed, they had recourse to the Porte, and succeeded in obtaining the mission of Samih Pasha.

As it might have been expected, this mission failed. No man in his senses could ever have been expected to lay down his arms and surrender his only chance of safety into the hands still red with innocent blood, and black with incendiarism. The Russians, however, having asked for, and being in that demand strongly backed by the Envoys of the Porte, obtained from me an armistice which would last until Europe had decided our fate. This happened on the 15th May. On the 24th a band of Russo-Bulgarian marauders attacked my left wing at Baulitza, but was repulsed with heavy loss. On the 28th another column of 1,500, with three guns, attacked Sajtishto; and one of 3,000 Russians, with three guns, attacked Drenkui.

As we had but 300 men there to meet the columns, they had to retire, but renewed the action next morning.

During this action several persons were taken prisoners, and then crucified in Bagul, and other atrocities committed, as well as women violated. After this seven more villages were burnt (eight in all), and we continued to fight until, on the night of the 2nd June, the whole of the population of the district included between the Arda and the Lasaz and Roptchos Balkans fled in dismay, incited to do so by secret agents of Russia, who falsely spread news of our defeat.

Three days after that I retook most of the positions, and held them still.

The Russians, not contented with these attacks on my left centre, attacked also my extreme right, and there, during actions which lasted until the opening of the Congress, burnt some sixty-four villages, but were finally beaten back, and, on their ceasing hostilities, I prevented any attack from being made upon them.

I may add that during these actions the Russian and Bulgarian prisoners taken by us were handed over to the Turkish authorities at Darideri, as mere criminals charged with incendiarism, and not with the graver crime of murder, although such they were guilty of.

My object having been from the beginning to prevent the useless effusion of blood, and not desiring to reconquer the lowlands, but merely to hold our highlands, fearing also that the discipline of my troops should not be sufficiently powerful to resist the temptation to plunder the villages which the Bulgarians would have fled from at once, I never attacked, but contented myself with repulsing the enemy when attacked. Of course since the enemy has ceased to attack he has remained unmolested, but has not ceased to commit petty acts of hostility along the border, and has never ceased sending in summonses to surrender, which, of course, have been treated with the contempt which they merit.

To my profoundest astonishment I hear that the Russians, who daily, and in vain, summon us to surrender, or at least to in the least acknowledge their authority, menacing us with utter extermination in case of refusal—which is the only answer they ever did receive—who carry off women, and fire at any one that gets within range, and otherwise annoy my posts, should state publicly that we have surrendered, is above my comprehension.

The object of this untruthful statement is, however, obvious, as well as the origin of it is plain to me. The Russians wish to, and have most probably succeeded in impressing Europe with the belief that the Mussulmans have submitted to the Russian scheme of driving them out of Europe. But, Excellency, it is my duty to protest most scornfully against this untruth, and to state that we are all ready to fight to the

last sooner than surrender to the wishes of Russia. Your Excellency must seriously consider this matter, and strongly represent this fact to Her Majesty's Government, because the Russians, after having succeeded in causing Europe to believe that we have surrendered, may all at once accuse us of having revolted, and attack us in their way—in the way in which they treat those whom they call insurgents—in other words, exterminate, if they succeed in gaining foot in our mountains, which now they could do, having been freed of all pressure on the part of England and Turkey. In fact, the Russian commanders might like to give their retiring troops a little amusement, consisting in plunder and other foul crimes, in our mountains.

Now, Sir, you Europeans who considered it improper and against international law to afford the slightest assistance to people fighting in despair, with no other chance than to fight for existence, can you now consider it proper for a powerful Empire to attack and destroy an unarmed people, leaving to it no choice but to die murdered, or to submit to a rule which must cause their destruction or extinction?

At such a moment to let the Russians "cause order to reign in the Rhodope" is equivalent to announcing to the Asiatic world that Mussulmans are to have no mercy shown them, and that the world is in a league to destroy them.

I have great power over these people. I have succeeded in causing them to accept of organization and discipline. I rule them without having to punish over severely. The same Bashi-Bazouks of so bad name now behave like orderly and well-trained troops, and on my side of the frontier more safety for property exists than in the best-ordered part of Turkey. These men have taken red-handed prisoners, and I could keep them from all aggression even after what they had suffered. But I have not the power to cause them to surrender to a non-Mussulman Government, and if I have not that power no one else will have it unless he supports it by cannon, and then, of course, war to the knife.

If such is to be the end of all England's sacrifices in order to keep the peace, if the decisions of the Congress are to be enforced by massacre, why then did England ever parade her fleets or mobilize an army?

No power short of a decided war of extermination will ever force these people to accept of a Government invented for them by their bitterest enemy. We will never become the subjects of either a Bulgaria or of a Roumelia, and we are decided to resist any attempt which would tend to such an end.

The Commission is a dangerous trap laid for England, as it may turn out to become a kind of Navarino, directed not against a Turkish fleet, but against poor Mussulman women and children. Of course the Commission will propose impossible things; then the Russian army will support these impossible conditions and terrorize the people, in other words exterminate all those they can reach, and then turn round to the Mussulman world and say, "I only executed Europe's decision," and who will suffer if not England?

Such is the situation. It can, however, be saved if England will only insist upon the basis of all arrangements here to be thus:—

"Instead of a Principality or vilayet called Roumelia, have two or three or more vilayets autonomous, the Constitutions of which will be voted by the people themselves."

This is the first point, and only upon such basis can I send so much as one delegate to lay their wishes before the Commission. On any other basis I cannot treat, as my people will not listen to any other arrangement.

Unless the autonomies render the people happy and well-governed, what need of them?

Surely the answer to this is simple. They are meant by Russia to cause convulsion and disorder, nought else.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HYDAYET.

P.S.—Count de R. will hand to your Excellency a copy of the Mazbata of atrocities committed by the Russians in an attempt to cause order to reign in the Rhodope. The Turkish original is in the hands of Duncan Mahmoud Pasha. As to the order reigning now, ask Colonel Fawcett and others who have been here, and see how the order reigns within the Russian rule.

H.

Voici ce que raconte un officier Russe, d'origine Polonaise, actuellement déserteur, sur les atrocités commises en Bulgarie par les Moscovites:—

1. Devant Plevna un officier supérieur Russe* se servait d'un interprète Bulgare, pour interroger un prisonnier, et lorsque le drogman lui a dit qu'il ne peut pas le comprendre, car il parle mal le Turque:—"Alors cela doit être un coquin de Polonais!" s'écria-t-il; il se mit à le maltraiter, et le fit passer par les armes.

2. Sur la route de Plevna à Bogot, dans une localité nommé Drelowo, des prisonniers Turcs furent assassinés par les soldats qui les reconduisaient.

3. Dans les environs de Tatar-Bazardjik un détachement de dragons et de Cosaques reconduisait quatre prisonniers. En route un Bulgare maltraita et coupa le visage d'un coup de fouet à un prisonnier. L'officier qui nous raconte cela, voulut punir le coupable; les soldats le lui empêchèrent, et percèrent de plusieurs coups de baïonnettes ce malheureux prisonnier, qui expira seulement au bout de quatre heures, implorant en vain qu'on l'achève.

4. La route de Bazardjik à Andrinople était rempli de cadavres de femmes et d'enfants assassinés par les Russes et les Bulgares.

5. A Petrokowo, pauvre village Bulgare, les Russes enlevèrent aux villageois tous leurs bestiaux, sans leur payer une para, malgré leurs larmes et lamentations. Des faits pareils se répétaient très-souvent.

L'exactitude de ces récits je confirme par ma signature,
(Signé) REBOWSKY.

(Traduction.)

Voici ce que les Russes ont fait dans les Villages du Balkan.

Le village de Kusehdar, qui s'était rendu avant la bataille, entièrement brûlé et saccagé. Les survivantes victimes déclarent ce qui suit, en déposant leurs cachets:—

1. La femme d'Omer Habibé, âgée de 42 ans:—"J'ai été violée."
2. La fille d'Omer Server, âgée de 13 ans:—"J'ai été violée malgré ma maladie."
3. Une autre fille d'Omer Seline, âgée de 6 ans, violée à tel point qu'elle est devenue perclusse.
4. La grand'mère des enfants, Omer, âgée de 60 ans:—"J'ai été blessée plusieurs fois à coups de baïonnette."
5. Une fille, Fatime, âgée de 25 ans, vierge, et perclusse. A été violée par tant de soldats qu'elle est devenue folle.
6. La femme d'un autre, Omer Havi, âgée de 74 ans:—"J'ai eue les seins percés à coups de baïonnette."
7. La femme d'Ahmet Habibé, âgée de 35 ans:—"J'ai été liée et ensuite violée."
8. La fille d'Amet Djenille, âgée de 8 ans:—"J'ai été violée."
9. La femme de Mahmoud Himro, âgée de 25 ans:—"J'ai été violée."
10. La fille de Bekir Dievre, âgée de 16 ans:—"J'ai été violée, et après, forcée de danser devant le Bulgare."
11. La femme de Mehmet Azire, âgée de 18 ans:—"J'ai été violée."
12. La femme de Mahmoud Server, âgée de 40 ans:—"J'ai été liée, et ensuite violée."
13. La femme d'Oltu Hasan Horé, âgée de 65 ans:—"J'ai été blessée par les baïonnettes, et violée par un Bulgare."
14. La femme de Mourat Hatidje, âgée de 30 ans:—"Ayant les mains liées derrière le dos, j'ai été livré pendant trois jours à la capacité de la soldatesque."
15. La fille de Mourat Hamide, âgée de 12 ans:—"J'ai été violée au point de devenir perclusse."
16. La femme de Kéli Mehmet Fatinès, âgée de 70 ans:—"J'ai été battue à coups de crosse, et blessée par la baïonnette."
17. La fille de Moustaphe Hamide, âgée de 18 ans:—"Après avoir été violée par le Cosaque, j'ai été livrée aux Bulgares, qui m'ont promenée pendant quatre jours dans les montagnes."

Toutes ces femmes ensuite ont été pendant quatre jours en prison au village de Samitch, et violée tout le temps.

* Du nom de Schramberg, de la IIme Brigade de la IIIme Division.

Liste des Personnes assassinées confirmée par la Signature des Témoins de ce Carnage.

1. Softa Ohtu Hassan, âgé de 70 ans, décapité par la hache, en présence de toute sa famille.
2. La femme d'Ali Hayha, âgée de 70 ans, a été tuée à coups de talons de bottes.
3. La femme d'Abdul Kéder Ghuilrade, âgée de 30 ans, est morte de suite du viol.
4. Sali, fils-de-maison, a été décapité.
5. Un fou, Mehmet, a été assassiné.

No. 320.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1010.)
Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade, reporting on the evacuation of Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 320.

Consul Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, August 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on Saturday last the Russian Commissioners for the evacuation of Shumla and Varna arrived here from the former place.

The next day General Stoltipine asked for the forts outside and at least one inside the town.

Fazli Pasha gave him two of the former, but declined to allow any Russian troops to enter the town except those sent unarmed to purchase provisions.

He also asked to have an employé at the telegraph station which was allowed on condition that the Pasha could telegraph to Constantinople.

Consequently, yesterday, a body of troops arrived from Bazardjik, and to-day they take possession of the two forts.

The Turks are actively employed in bringing their guns, ammunition, &c., down to the pier to be embarked on transports, three of which are in harbour and others expected.

General Fazli Pasha tells me that he has received orders from Constantinople to expedite the evacuation as much as possible, so that the withdrawal of the Russians from San Stefano to the Tchataldja lines may be obtained.

Sirri Pasha, the Ottoman Commissioner, is expected from Shumla, where the evacuation has been retarded by the ill-treatment of the refugees, who are so terror-stricken that they cannot be persuaded to move.

Kiazim Pasha, a Circassian, brother-in-law of the Sultan, arrived three days ago from Constantinople with three steamers for the conveyance of the Circassians here to some points on the coast of Asia distant from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 321.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1011.)
Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney giving an account of affairs at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 321.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, August 3, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that about 300 Circassians, coming from Constantinople, were landed here yesterday.

It is rumoured that a collision took place a few days ago between the troops and the brigands at Serakovo-Zagori.

A Turkish iron-clad, the "Mahmoudieh," has been ordered to cruise about in these waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 323.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1015.)
Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade, giving an account of the ill-treatment by the Russians and Bulgarians of the Mussulman refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 323.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, August 5, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 30th ultimo, amongst other cruelties on the part of the Russians against the refugees sent from Shumla to Rasgrad, I stated that after having been revoltingly searched for arms three times between the two places, they were driven like herds of animals into the "salhanné," or slaughter-house, of the latter place.

I was yesterday officially informed that it had been reported to the authorities at Shumla that most of these unfortunate emigrants were still in the "salhanné," and that some had actually succumbed to the horrors they have been the victims of.

I continue to hear daily of the most inhuman treatment of Mussulmans by Bulgars and Russians in every direction—acts which are a scandal to civilization, and which prove beyond all doubt that it is the fixed determination of the present occupants of the province to get rid of by arbitrary, and when these fail by foul, means, these poor people.

The greatest activity and haste with which this is done also shows very clearly that advantage is being taken of the period that is elapsing previous to the arrival of the International Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 324.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 1019.)
Therapia, August 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, giving an account of the Turkish forces in Thessaly and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the troops in the Vilayet of Salonica have been placed under the orders of the Mushir, Ali Sahib Pasha, as Commander-in-chief of the 3rd "Ordou" (corps d'armée), whose head-quarters have been transferred from Monastir to Larissa.

This corps d'armée is at present composed of 55 battalions, 2 regiments of cavalry, and 4 batteries of field and 4 of mountain artillery. Of this force, 30 battalions, the 2 regiments of cavalry, and 6 batteries of artillery (2 field and 4 mountain) are stationed in Thessaly, and are under the immediate orders of the Commander-in-chief, assisted by the Ferik, Muhliss Pasha, as second in command, and by the Livas Iskender Pasha, Hassan Pasha, Sheriff Pasha, and Ahmet Pasha, in command of brigades.

Iskender Pasha's brigade occupies the districts of Armyro and Volo; Hassan Pasha's those of Tchataldja (Pharsala) and Domoco; Shereff Pasha's, Fener and Carditza; and Ahmet Pasha's, Tricalla and the Agrapha Passes. Most of these 30 battalions have their full complement of men; and from the inquiries which I have made, I may reckon the average strength of a battalion at 650 men, which makes a total force of 19,500 infantry, irrespective of the 6 batteries of artillery, and the cavalry, which numbers 1,100 sabres.

This force, however, is much broken up, and scattered about in small detachments, but, if required in case of an emergency, can easily be brigaded at short notice in their respective districts.

Many of the battalions distinguished themselves in the late campaigns with Russia, and came here shortly after Suleiman Pasha's retreat over the Rhodope Mountains.

These troops are very well fed and armed, but in need of clothing and boots. Many battalions have received no pay for the last three years, some not even for five years, and yet they don't look dispirited or discontented, and seem to bear with wonderful patience their privations and hardships. They confine their complaints to want of linen and to the absence of all news from their families.

While out driving one day in the vicinity of the camp outside this town I met some soldiers sitting by the roadside patching up their uniforms. On my offering them a few piastres, they asked who I was, and after thanking me, they begged me to give them instead some old shirts or drawers. And again, on more than one occasion, soldiers have come up to me making anxious inquiries as to the fate of the Mahommedan population in the Balkan and Rhodope districts.

I have also remarked a very strong feeling among both officers and men against Suleiman Pasha. They openly accuse him of being the chief cause of all their reverses, and express the hope that he will suffer the punishment due to a traitor. On the other hand, the names of Mehmet Ali Pasha, Osman Pasha, Ingliz Baker Pasha, and Rejeb Pasha are very popular, and are always mentioned with pride and admiration.

In the Vilayet of Salonica, included in Ali Sahib Pasha's command, there are twenty-five battalions and two batteries of field artillery. Fifteen of these battalions are under the orders of Ferik Shevket Pasha, who has his head-quarters at Kozanu. His command extends from Monastir to Vodina, Caraferia, and Catterina, with intermediate districts. The remaining ten battalions, with the two batteries of field artillery, form another division, under the orders of Ferik Salih Pasha, with head-quarters at Salonica, whose command comprises Salonica, Serres, and Drama, with their sub-districts. I now hear that the divisions in Macedonia will be soon considerably reinforced by a portion of the garrisons of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The troops in Epirus are under the separate and independent command of the Mushir Ahmet Hamdi Pasha, but I have not yet procured any reliable data as regards their number and disposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 325.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 1020.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Blunt, reporting on the excesses committed by the Turkish troops at Verdi-Kussia, and the steps taken by the Commandant to punish the offenders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 325.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, July 26, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram and despatch of the 22nd instant, relative to the recent unfortunate occurrences at Verdi-Kussia, a Christian village in the district of Allassona, in this province, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a Report on the subject, with a copy of its inclosure, from Colonel Synge, who attended the Commission which was sent to the spot by the Commander-in-chief, Ali Sahib Pasha, to make a full inquiry into this case.

Ali Sahib Pasha, to whom I pointed out the importance of taking necessary steps to prevent the renewal of similar occurrences, told me that he had placed under arrest the officers and several privates of the two companies of troops who were employed at Verdi-Kussia; and that they will be tried by court-martial, and be punished as they deserve.

He has also removed to Larissa the battalion to which these companies belong; and issued a Circular order on the subject to the Commanding Officers under him.

I should add that I found the Commander-in-chief disposed to receive favourably my representations and suggestions; and I trust that the prompt action of his Excellency in this case will have a salutary effect.

I have also called his Excellency's attention to what Colonel Synge states in his Report with regard to the order he has issued for the removal of the families of local brigands who refrain from making their submission within a given time; and expressed a hope that proper precautions will be taken to prevent any arbitrary use of this severe measure.

He told me that the order will only be carried out, as a trial, in certain districts, that is to say in those which are most overrun by brigands; and that in no instance will a family be removed or banished without a formal declaration from the civil authorities and leading men of the district or sub-district, certifying that the relatives of the family are engaged in acts of brigandage.

I am told that a similar law is in operation in Greece, where it has very much contributed to the repression of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 325.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, July 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward you a Report of the occurrences which recently took place at the village of Verdi-Kussia, in the district of Allassona.

From the statements made and the rumours in circulation, his Excellency Mushir Ali Sahib Pasha, upon your suggestion, judged it requisite to send a Commission of Inquiry to the spot.

From the evidence before the Commission, of which I was a member, it would appear that the Kaimakam of Allassona, having received information of the presence of insurgent brigands in Verdi-Kussia, requisitioned the assistance of the troops for the purpose of endeavouring to capture them.

Three companies of troops were sent during the night of Wednesday, the 17th instant, for the purpose of surrounding the village on the morning of the 18th instant. On the troops arriving on the outskirts of the village they were fired on by a band of eight brigands, under one Hadji Manoli, and from the position it appeared to the troops that the fire was from the village; thereupon it was returned, with the unfortunate result that several persons were struck, one man being since dead. It is to be regretted that the troops in searching for arms were permitted to plunder the houses; some thirty to forty houses and the church being robbed. Immediately on arrival of the Commission at Verdi-Kussia, the whole of the troops implicated were made prisoners. A military doctor was telegraphed for, and measures taken for the removal of the injured persons to Tirnova under medical superintendence.

A Commission of residents was instituted to verify and assist in the restoration of plunder recovered; and a Commission from neighbouring villages was sent with police assistance to search the vicinity for plunder. Much has thus been recovered. The troops, before being marched off, were carefully searched in the presence of the villagers.

The Kaïmakam of Allassona and the Major commanding the troops did not arrive on the scene until about half-an-hour after the commencement of the firing, when their presence restored order.

Several brigands begged to make their submission through the Commission, and cases of hardship were investigated and reported upon; in fact, the services of a similarly constituted Commission cannot but have a beneficial effect on the district through which it may pass.

An order has been issued by his Excellency the Mushir commanding that if within a given time the local brigands refrain from making their submission, their families will be removed from their villages. This order, requisite for the restoration of safety in the wilder districts, if left only to the execution of the local officials, may be converted into a means of extortion, and attended with results contrary to those anticipated.

I append the principal evidence taken by the Commission at Verdi-Kussia, corroborating the above Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 325.

Evidence taken by the Commission of Inquiry at Verdi-Kussia, appended to Report dated Larissa, July 28, 1878.

First Evidence.

STATEMENT of Moukhtar Nicola Yota, of Verdi-Kussia:—

Before daylight on last Thursday morning, 18th July, I heard gunshots, got up and went out, the people were rushing about. I shouted to them to turn back to their houses. One man, Peolio Ghika, was just going outside his door when he was struck by a bullet; he is since dead. He was a man of good character.

Dimitri Treminchio and Nulla Despiniunin, who were wounded, had been insurgents, but were now working at their trades. The wife of Constantides Gungalla was wounded in the house, the bullet passing through a thin wall. Most of the people were sleeping out of doors. I was not aware that there were strangers in the town that night. I do not know if any guns were fired from the town. A considerable portion of the plunder has been recovered.

Second Evidence.

Pétrarcho Tchelzito states:—

On the morning of the 18th, before daybreak, I heard firing, first two guns and then a general rattle. I went outside and saw soldiers. I collected my family and went to Yanouli's house. About half-an-hour afterwards I returned to my house and found it stripped. I have since recovered about one-third of my loss.

(Other villagers gave similar evidence.)

Muharrem Effendi, Kaïmakam of Allassona, states:—

I had received information that brigands were harboured in Verdi-Kussia, and having orders from the Government to pursue any brigands I should hear of, I requested the Binbashi, Mustapha Effendi, commanding the troops at Allassona, to surround the village of Verdi-Kussia.

I was about half-an-hour's distance from the village, in company with the Binbashi, we moving on the village by another route when I heard firing, and pushing on as speedily as possible was met by some of the villagers, and the firing having ceased on the bugle sounding, I endeavoured to restore order as soon as possible.

The Binbashi, Mustapha Effendi, states:—

The troops employed at Verdi-Kussia were three companies of the Khutaya battalion. I was with the Kaïmakam, and not present with the troops when the firing took place.

The Acting Commander was Mehemet Agha Yuzbashi, and the other officers were Osman Agha Yuzbashi and Mulazim Abdul Rahman Effendi.

I was detained with the cavalry escort searching for five brigands we heard of on the road. The village fired on the troops, and they returned it. My intention was to surround the village and send a detachment in to search.

Hadji Yanuli, ex-chief of brigands:—

I was out with seven men on Thursday morning. In the darkness I saw men moving towards the village, and we fired three shots and went away up the mountain.

On Sunday, 20th instant, I came in and made my submission and was pardoned. I have been out about six months. I don't think other guns were fired from the town.

Dr. Ezra, of the Karaman battalion, sent from Tirnova to attend the persons wounded, states:—

The following persons received gunshot wounds at Verdi-Kussia:—

1. Yanni Darara (*alias* Nulla Despiniunin) wounded in the right arm without complication.
2. Dimitri Treminchio, aged 35, wounded in the left leg, severe.
3. Tanyanni (wife of Costantin Gungalla), a woman aged 50, a wound in the left foot, bone fractured.
4. Tassia Yanuli, aged 12, wounded in the little finger, bone fractured, and left wrist slightly.
5. Pagona Costantinides, aged 10, severe wound in thigh, bone fractured, but doing well.
6. Little girl, aged 5 years, daughter of Nicola Demir, wounded in the breast and arm, case serious, child being sickly.
7. A boy, Yanni Ghika, grazed by bullet, wound of no account.
8. Peolio Ghika, died twenty-four hours after receiving gunshot wound.

No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 504.)

My Lord, *Vienna, August 11, 1878.*

I HAD yesterday some conversation with M. Delyanni, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, who, after passing a few days here, has proceeded on his way to Athens.

He alluded to his conversations with your Lordship, and expressed his recognition of the friendly disposition exhibited by Her Majesty's Government towards his country, stating that the complaints raised in some quarters were entirely uncalled for. He assumed, however, that the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin was to be regarded as an absolute decision of the Powers that there must be between Greece and Turkey a rectification of frontier such as was therein recommended, and that the Porte must be held to have consented to it by having signed the Treaty, by the XXIVth Article of which it is provided that there shall be an European mediation if the two interested

Governments should not agree. The Powers, according to M. Delyanni, will, therefore, be under the obligation of seeing this decision carried out.

I told M. Delyanni that I had no special knowledge of the manner in which this question was looked upon by Her Majesty's Government, but I believed him to be mistaken in assuming that the rectification of the frontiers recommended in the Protocol was to be regarded as a decision of the Powers which they were bound to enforce. If it had been so intended, it would have been embodied in the Treaty itself, and not confined to a Protocol in the shape of a wish entertained or a recommendation made by the Powers; but in any case the first step to be taken was a negotiation between Greece and the Porte, and it was only in the event of this leading to no result that an appeal could be made for the mediation of the Powers, and I was not aware that the Sultan's Government had refused to entertain the question.

Your Lordship's despatch No. 429, containing the copy of your despatch to Mr. Wyndham of the 21st July, informing him of the language you had held to M. Delyanni, did not reach me till this morning, when it was a satisfaction to me to find that my own observations to him agreed very closely with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 327.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 567. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 12, 1878.*

WHEN I communicated to Count Andrassy the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 10th, he had already been informed by Count Deym of the suggestion you had made with the view of bringing the question of the occupation of Bosnia into a more promising position.

Count Andrassy showed a consciousness that the turn things were taking threatened entirely to compromise his policy, and he may be credited with sincerity in declaring himself as desirous as ever of coming to an amicable understanding with the Porte.

He said that he adhered to the declaration he had already made of his readiness to engage by official note to guarantee Turkey against attack from Servia or Montenegro, but he could only do so after the acceptance by the Porte of a Convention establishing an agreement between the two Governments on the subject of the occupation.

If he were to give a guarantee against the two Principalities at once he believes that he would never obtain the Convention, to which he attaches extreme importance, and which cannot contain less than what has already been stated to the Porte by Count Zichy.

He would never consent that, as proposed by the Porte, there should be a stated term fixed for the duration of the occupation, which, however, might be declared provisional and undertaken under an European "mandat."

Respect for the rights of the Sultan could be set forth in it, and an engagement would be taken to maintain in office all the capable Ottoman officials, while those whom it was necessary to change should, as far as possible, be replaced by natives of the province; full protection should be guaranteed for the Mahommedan religion, and there should be a Mussulman member in the Courts of Law; and everything that is possible would be done to respect the feelings of the Sultan's subjects.

He complained, however, that hitherto nothing had been done by the Porte to facilitate the conclusion of such an arrangement. He had, it is true, been just informed by Carathéodory Pasha that instructions had been transmitted from Constantinople to Hafiz Pasha at Bosna-Serai that the Austrians were to be regarded as friends, and that their advance was not to be opposed; but Hafiz Pasha was known to sympathize with the insurgents, if indeed he was not in direct relation with them, and it was not the least likely that these instructions would be promulgated by him. It was therefore essential that they should be made known by the Porte to the other officials at Bosna-Serai, as well as to the authorities of all other important places in the province, some of whom were taking no steps to prevent the organization of a resistance to the Imperial troops.

It was reported by the Austrian Consul at Salonica that even at a place so distant as Uscup bodies of well-armed men, stated to number 3,000, had proceeded openly and without hindrance from the authorities to take part with the insurgents.

Count Zichy also reported that, when he requested the Grand Vizier to cause measures to be taken to prevent the garrison of Sienitza from joining in the movement, the Minister of War, on being applied to, replied that the greater part of them had already taken their departure for the purpose of doing so.

In the recent encounters in Bosnia whole battalions of regular Ottoman troops had been found fighting against the Imperial army, and it had now become indispensable that the two Governments should come to an understanding.

If such proceedings were to continue, Count Andrassy intimated that, much against his will, he would have entirely to change his policy.

By occupying Bosnia under a friendly understanding with the Porte, he had fully intended that Austria should become a bulwark and a defence for the Turkish Empire; but this would be impossible if the Porte did not exhibit a goodwill, which, he said, it had hitherto withheld.

He had resisted the overtures made by the Christians of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, who wished to act with the Austrian troops, for he hoped to avoid everything like a civil or religious war.

The Servian and Montenegrin Governments were also desirous of joining with him in overcoming resistance in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, expecting to receive for their services a compensation which would be at the expense of Turkey.

The Porte must see that, if serious difficulties arose in occupying the provinces and the assistance of Servia and Montenegro were to be accepted, it would be impossible for Austria to enter into a guarantee directed against these two Principalities.

Count Andrassy also intimated very clearly that if the Austrian troops were constrained to enter Bosna-Serai as conquerors, and to expend large sums and to sacrifice many men in taking possession of the country by force instead of occupying it with the Sultan's consent, he would not guarantee that the operations should be as limited as had been proposed, and Austria might demand some greater compensation for the sacrifices she had been compelled to make.

There is, therefore, no time to be lost by the Porte in coming to a decision to prevent the evils that otherwise appear inevitable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 328.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 567 A. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 12, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY believes that if, as suggested by your Lordship, he were to inform the Porte that he would do all in his power to prevent any other Government from siding with Greece in an attack upon Turkey, he would be holding out an inducement to the Government of the Sultan to refuse to agree to the rectification of the frontier advocated by the Congress of Berlin, and he refuses to share your Lordship's apprehensions that Greece might receive active support from France were she to commence an aggression upon her neighbour. But though he thinks it undvisable to give the Porte too great a feeling of security, he had expressed himself very strongly to M. Delyanni, and had told him that though the Congress had recommended Turkey to come to an understanding with Greece respecting the frontier provinces, he must expect no countenance from Austria or, as he believed, from any other Government, if, by any rash or unwarranted proceedings, the Hellenic Government were to run the risk of again creating trouble in the East. He had told the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs that he had been premature in asking for the intervention of the Powers at Constantinople; that it was only upon the failure of the negotiations which his Government should enter into with the Porte that an appeal could be made to the Powers for their mediation, and that the Powers, in expressing at Berlin the hope that an understanding might be come to between the two Governments, were not to be regarded as having come to a resolution which they could be called upon to enforce.

Count Andrassy added that, although he had held this language to M. Delyanni, and communicated the substance of it, confidentially, for your Lordship's information,

he must, for the reasons he had at first stated, beg that it should not be conveyed to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 569.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 12, 1878.

UPON receiving your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 6th instant, I immediately spoke to Count Andrassy about the nomination of an Austro-Hungarian member of the European Commission for the elaboration of the organization of East Roumelia.

In reply to an inquiry I again put to his Excellency to-day, he said that he had under consideration the names of several gentlemen, from which he would make a selection in a few days.

He assumed that this Commission was meant to be quite distinct from the one to be established for controlling the provisional administration of Bulgaria.

His Excellency also spoke of the necessity of at once naming the Delegates for the demarcation of the different frontiers that have to be traced, and said that the Russian Government consider that the points upon which the members of these Commissions may differ must not be decided by the opinion of the majority. He did not himself quite see how such cases could be decided otherwise; for though they might perhaps be referred to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, if these also differed it would be necessary to abide by the opinion of the majority. He had, however, directed that the course generally followed in such cases should be inquired into and ascertained for his guidance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 330.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 571.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 13, 1878.

IT is arranged that Ali Pasha, with his corps of about 3,000 men, which had retired to Metcovitch, shall be conveyed, with their arms, from Klek to some point on the coast of Albania, in vessels of the Austrian Lloyd's Company.

The Porte proposed that they should be landed at Prevesa, but some unwillingness was shown by the Imperial Government to take them to a place so close to the Greek frontier.

Count Andrassy has remarked to me that, although this force was allowed to retain its arms, and had been treated altogether like the troops of a friendly Power, the fact of so many Turkish soldiers having been permitted to join the insurgents may make it impossible to show the same consideration for the future.

At Stolatz a few hundred Ottoman troops showed an inclination to resist, and they were consequently disarmed upon that place being occupied by the Imperial forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 331.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 572.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 13, 1878.

A RESISTANCE to the advance of the Austrian troops in Bosnia, much more serious than had been anticipated, immediately gave rise here to a strong feeling of irritation against the Porte, which became more intense when it was known that some battalions of Redifs had taken part in the engagements.

The declarations of the Consuls, that the Imperial troops would everywhere be welcomed as the means of restoring order, had been received with too much confidence, and too little thought was given to the probability of a considerable portion of the inhabitants objecting to be transferred to a foreign State, which, from the events of the last three years, had been regarded by them in far from a friendly light.

The Porte would no doubt have shown a better judged appreciation of its own interests if it had at once recognized the necessities of its position, and had been ready to enter into an agreement with the Austro-Hungarian Government in regard to an occupation that was not to be avoided; but there is an extreme injustice on the part of those who are surprised that alacrity is not exhibited by a Government in preparing for the cession of a province which had not been wrested from them by force of arms. That there should be at Constantinople much sympathy for those who are struggling to prevent their transfer from the authority of the Sultan is no more than was to be expected, and I have endeavoured to insist upon this upon all occasions when impatience has been expressed, and I have sometimes asked whether, if a Congress had decreed the union of the Trentino to Italy, the Austrian Government would not feel some sympathy with the Tyrolese if they resisted the Italian troops for the purpose of remaining under the rule of the Emperor. When I have heard the Porte accused of duplicity, and of encouraging the opposition to the Imperial troops, I have invariably maintained the accusation to be unfounded, the only fair reproach to which the Sultan's Government appear open being that they clung too long to the hope of being ultimately able to retain the province; while, on the other hand, it was to be remembered that the occupation was undertaken with some precipitation, as the Austrian troops passed the frontier several days before the ratification of the Treaty by which that duty was imposed upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 332.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 574. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 14, 1878.

CARATHÉODORY PASHA told me this afternoon that he had at last received instructions from the Porte which would, he hoped, enable him to conclude an arrangement which should satisfy the Austro-Hungarian Government respecting the occupation.

The Porte would no longer insist upon a term being fixed for its duration, or upon a declaration that the Administration of Bosnia should be directed by it. Upon most of the conditions asked for, his conversations with Count Andrassy led him to believe that not much difficulty would be experienced, although there were some on which he was not acquainted with the views of his Excellency, amongst which were engagements that on the Friday's services in the mosques the prayer for the Sultan should be put up, and that on these occasions the Turkish flag should be hoisted on the mosques.

The Pasha anticipated no difficulty about the first of these points, as he says at Algiers and in other Mahommedan countries out of Turkey the prayer for the Sultan is offered up every week, and he hoped Count Andrassy would not object to the exhibition of the Turkish flag.

He had not yet been able to see the Minister to communicate his instructions, but said he would be glad if I could give him any assistance in obtaining a favourable reception for the proposals of his Government, and I promised to do all that lay in my power.

Caratheodory Pasha then spoke to me of the language your Lordship had held to Count Deym, as reported in your telegram to me of the 10th instant, of which he showed himself fully and accurately informed.

I told him that Count Andrassy had objected to your Lordship's suggestion that he should give the Porte a written guarantee against attack by Servia or Montenegro, previous to the conclusion of the agreement about the occupation, but that he had repeated his readiness to do so when an understanding had been come to, and the Turkish Plenipotentiary seemed satisfied with this assurance.

Upon being questioned by him as to Count Andrassy's answer respecting the

suggestion that he should promise to exert his influence to dissuade any great Power from assisting Greece if she should resort to hostilities against Turkey, I confined myself to saying that his Excellency feared that the effect of his giving such an assurance might be to encourage the Porte to resist compliance with the wishes expressed by the Congress of Berlin, and I abstained entirely from giving any intimation of the language of Count Andrassy to M. Delyanni, as reported in my despatch No. 567 A of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 333.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 575. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 14, 1878.*

I HAVE had frequent conversations with Carathéodory Pasha during the last week, and am able to say that he is fully alive to the importance of his Government coming to an understanding with Austria respecting the occupation.

He gives Count Andrassy credit for wishing to carry out a policy of a friendly nature towards Turkey, and he is aware that any appearance of there being a disposition at Constantinople to encourage the resistance to the Austrian troops in Bosnia might very possibly force his Excellency to take a totally different line.

Count Andrassy had intimated to him pretty clearly, that if the Imperial Government is obliged to regard the province as acquired by conquest, he would consult the interests of this Empire in the extension to be given to it.

Carathéodory Pasha says that he has done all in his power to make his Government aware of this danger, and to induce them to meet the wishes of Count Andrassy while it is still time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 334.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 451.)
My Lord, *Athens, August 10, 1878.*

M. COUMOUNDOUROS has told me that the Turkish Government, contrary to their promises, had, according to a Report just received from the Greek Consul at Prevesa, landed at that port a number of Circassians. His Excellency told me he had made representations on the subject to the Turkish Minister here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 335.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 683.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1878.*

I LEARN from M. de Giers that the Turkish Ambassador had informed him yesterday that, owing to the length of time required for the journey to and from Constantinople, as well as for translating the Treaty into Turkish, it would be impossible to have the Sultan's ratification of the Treaty of Berlin ready to be exchanged on the 3rd instant, and Chakir Pasha had therefore requested that a prolongation of fifteen days in the period fixed for the exchange might be granted.

M. de Giers replied that, speaking on his own authority only, he could state that while the Russian Government must maintain the date originally fixed upon for the general exchange of the ratifications, there would be no objection to the delay in the case of Turkey, on condition that the Turkish Plenipotentiary should make a formal declaration that the Sultan already considers the Treaty in force ("exécutoire") from

the date of its general ratification by the other Powers; and that the only reason for his ratification not being also at Berlin on the 3rd is the physical impossibility of the ratification instrument being prepared in so short a time.

M. de Giers added that, having submitted to the Emperor this morning both the inquiry of Chakir Pasha and the reply which he had made to it, he had been directed to repeat the same language officially to his Excellency if he should call for a further answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 336.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 687.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 6, 1878.*

I LEARN from the Turkish Ambassador that he has officially informed M. de Giers of the readiness of the Sultan to surrender at once some of the dominating positions around Varna, and to hand over the entire fortress as soon as it is possible to remove the large amount of military stores, &c., now collected there. He had also been instructed to assure the Russian Government that Batoum likewise would be surrendered as soon as the necessary arrangements could be completed.

His Excellency told me that this communication had been very favourably received at the Russian Foreign Office, and he believed that orders had been already sent to commence the withdrawal of some portion of the Russian troops from the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 337.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 689.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1878.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I called to-day at the Foreign Department and inquired whether the Russian Government are prepared to nominate at once a Commissioner under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin to assist in elaborating the future organization of Eastern Roumelia.

M. de Giers informed me that he was at that moment writing to M. de Bartolomei to propose to your Lordship that the various Commissions which were to be appointed under the Treaty of Berlin should be constituted so as to commence their labours on the 13th of next month.

He would, therefore, propose to your Lordship that the East Roumelian Commission should meet at Constantinople on the 13th proximo.

In reply to my inquiry as to whether the Russian member of the Commission was already appointed, M. de Giers stated that the Emperor had nominated Colonel Schepeloff of the Staff. His Excellency seemed to think that your Lordship might have preferred a civil nominee, for he twice reverted to the subject to impress upon me that the selection of a military officer as Commissioner had no special signification. The post had been first offered to a diplomat, who declined it on grounds of health, and Colonel Schepeloff had been appointed solely on account of his ability and his local experience of those countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 338.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 691.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 7, 1878.*

M. DE GIERS informed me to-day that, in spite of the promise which the Turkish Government gave three days ago that they would at once hand over to the Russian forces some of the dominating points around Varna, he had not yet heard that any steps had been taken for so doing.

His Excellency again repeated that the Imperial Government were anxious to withdraw their troops from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and to return the Russian prisoners; but they could not surrender either of these means of bringing pressure to bear upon the Porte until at least they had obtained practical command of the two fortresses of Shumla and Varna.

M. de Giers went on to express the serious apprehension which he felt at the opposition which is being offered to the entry of the Austrian army into Bosnia, as he feared it might be secretly encouraged from Constantinople in the hope of still bringing about complications and thereby preventing the peaceful carrying out of the arrangements which had been agreed upon at the Berlin Congress.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 339.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 696.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 9, 1878.*

I CALLED to-day on M. de Giers to inquire, as directed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, whether, in view of the fact that under the Treaty their labours must be completed by the 3rd November, he considered the 13th September would be soon enough for the meeting of the Commission which was to assist in elaborating the future organization of Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency replied that the Russian Government, who were most anxious to hasten as much as possible the formation of all the Commissions which were to be formed under the Treaty of Berlin, had originally intended to propose that these Commissions should meet on the 1st September, but that the members designated to sit on the Boundary Commissions had declared their inability to have their maps, &c., prepared in so short a time, and had begged to be allowed till the 1st September (Russian style) for the necessary preparations and the journey to their respective places of meeting.

In the case, however, of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, he agreed with me that as early a date as possible was desirable, more especially in view of the state of affairs in the Rhodope Mountains, and as Colonel Schopeloff was already in Turkey, and would, moreover, receive his instructions from Prince Labanoff, who had been directed to concert with Sir Austen Layard on the subject, M. de Giers thought that it might be possible to fix the 1st September for the meeting of that one Commission. He added that he would submit the question to the Emperor, and would communicate His Majesty's reply to me to-morrow.

M. de Giers begged me, however, to point out to your Lordship that he was unprepared for the construction which seemed to be placed by Her Majesty's Government upon Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

The Russian Government understood the words "Cette Commission aura à déterminer dans un délai de trois mois," &c., to mean that the period of three months should be counted as commencing from the day on which the Commission might be constituted, and not from the day upon which ratifications were exchanged at Berlin.

The Russian Government would be glad to have your Lordship's opinion of this reading of this Article, as they fear it will be almost impossible to finish the labours of the Commission in less than three full months, and as, moreover, the interpretation given to Article XVIII may possibly affect that of some of the other Articles in the Treaty.

M. de Giers informed me that General Bobrikoff had been named Russian member of the Commission for defining the boundaries of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 340.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 698.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 695 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of an unofficial note which I have this morning received from M. de Giers, in which his Excellency informs me that the Emperor is ready to accede to the earlier date for the assembling of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, and that His Majesty begs to be informed what date Her Majesty's Government desire.

M. de Giers suggests the 1st September (N. S.) as being the most convenient.

His Excellency again calls my attention to the interpretation to be put on Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin; he states that the Emperor is of opinion that the delay of three months allowed for the completion of the labours of the Commission is intended to be counted from the day on which the Commission shall arrive on the spot, otherwise the time at the disposal of the Commission would be too short to allow of its settling anything; and his Excellency again expresses the hope that your Lordship will accept this interpretation of the Article in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 340.

M. de Giers to Mr. Plunkett.

Monsieur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* [illegible], 1878.

JE m'empresse de vous informer que l'Empereur adhère à votre proposition d'accélérer la réunion de la Commission qui sera chargée d'élaborer un nouveau Statut Organique pour la Roumélie Orientale; mais Sa Majesté maintient l'opinion que le délai de trois mois fixé pour les travaux de cette Commission ne doit commencer à compter que depuis le jour de son arrivée sur les lieux, et non depuis l'échange des ratifications du Traité, car dans ce dernier cas elle ne pourrait absolument rien terminer.

Je ne doute pas que cette opinion ne soit partagée par votre Gouvernement.

J'attendrai votre proposition quant au terme de la réunion de la dite Commission à Constantinople, où elle devra recevoir ses instructions des Ambassadeurs.

La date du 1er Septembre (v. s.) me paraît le plus convenable.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

No. 341.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 700.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1878.*

THE "Invalide Russe" announces that the 65th and 66th Regiments, belonging to the 17th Division of the Imperial Infantry, entered Varna on the [illegible] and have occupied four of the exterior forts and a part of the inner inclosure.

I learnt this morning, privately, through a trustworthy military channel, that orders have already been given for commencing the demobilization of the Russian army in Europe on the [illegible] instant, and for the immediate return of the Turkish prisoners to their homes, but that, so far, no instructions have been given to General Todleben to withdraw from the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and that the demobilization was to commence with the troops which are stationed near Kieff and on the Austrian frontier.

M. de Giers being absent for the day from St. Petersburgh, in attendance upon His Majesty the Emperor, I am unable to obtain any official information of the absence of orders to the army at San Stefano; but I have just seen Chakir Pasha, who expressed considerable anxiety upon the subject, and communicated to me his apprehension that General Todleben would still find some excuse for delaying his retreat in spite of the repeated promises which have been made by the Russian Government that the retreat from San Stefano should commence whenever they obtained practical possession of Shumla and Varna.

His Excellency added that he intended calling M. de Giers' attention to this matter as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 342.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 702.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive the despatches No. 411 and No. 421 of the 24th ultimo and the 1st instant respectively, in which your Lordship inclosed, for the information of Lord A. Loftus, copies of correspondence respecting the musketry fire opened by Russian troops on two boats of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure."

M. de Giers has not alluded to the circumstance, and I have thought it right, in the absence of any instructions from your Lordship, to abstain from any reference to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 343.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 707.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1878.*

AT an interview which I had lately with M. de Giers, his Excellency read me some extracts from a very voluminous despatch dated the $\frac{1}{13}$th July, which, however, he had only then just received, from Prince Labanoff.

It contained the result of the inquiries instituted by his Excellency into the atrocities to which the Turkish Ambassador had lately called the attention of the Russian Government, as having been committed in the neighbourhood of Sofia, and appeared to enter lengthily into details of date, fact, and place.

From the extracts which M. de Giers was so good as to read to me I gathered:—

1st. Prince Labanoff acknowledges that very many cases of cruelty and injustice have been proved.

2ndly. He maintains that none of these can be proved to have taken place where the Russian troops were at hand to prevent them.

3rdly. That the evildoers were almost invariably the Greek and not the Slav inhabitants; and

4thly. That the local authorities, so far from fearing the presence of the Russian troops or looking upon them as conniving at the atrocities, were constantly asking for detachments to be sent to this or that village for the protection of the inhabitants, and that as far as was feasible the Russian officers acceded to those requests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 344.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 710.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1878.*

IN an interview which I had this afternoon with M. de Giers, his Excellency informed me that the Circular despatch which he had lately addressed to the Russian Embassies abroad, suggesting that the Commissions under the Treaty of Berlin should meet on the $\frac{15}{27}$th September, appeared to have been misunderstood by the German Government, and he therefore begged me to explain clearly to your Lordship that that despatch referred to the constitution of the Commissions destined to define the various boundaries which had been sketched out at Berlin. In proposing, as he had now done, out of deference to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, that the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia should meet on the 1st September (N. S.) he begged to be understood as referring only to the Commission which was to be charged with the duty of elaborating the future organization of Eastern Roumelia, while he still desired to maintain the date of the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ for the Commission which would have to define the actual line of the Roumelian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 345.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 713.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 678 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report that, as far as I can learn, the advice given by the Russian Government to M. Delyanni was that Greece should be patient and moderate.

The inclosed extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" gives what is believed to be a correct account of the principal object of his visit.

M. Delyanni remained here only a couple of days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{July}{August}\frac{30}{11}$, 1878.

M. G. BRAILAS ARMÉNI, Ministre de Grèce, de retour à son poste, a eu l'honneur d'être reçu par Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Son Excellence M. Th. Delyanni, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Hellénique, chargé d'exprimer la reconnaissance de la Grèce et de son Roi pour l'appui qui leur a été accordé au sein du Congrès par les Plénipotentiaires de Russie, a eu également l'honneur d'être reçu peu de jours après par Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

No. 346.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 649.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 17, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON returned to Paris for a couple of days last evening, and I had an interview with him this morning at the French Foreign Office.

He adverted to the note which I addressed to him, by your Lordship's order, on the 7th instant, to inquire whether the French Government were ready to send a Commissioner to elaborate, in accord with the Porte, the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

M. Waddington proceeded to tell me that he had received communications from the Russian, German, and Italian Governments, with respect to the Commission for

organizing Eastern Roumelia as well as to other Commissions to be appointed in execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Waddington went on to say that there were questions connected with all these Commissions which required consideration.

He observed that the IInd Article of the Treaty provided that the frontier of Bulgaria should be marked out by a Commission in which the Powers parties to the Treaty should be represented.

He presumed that this Commission would be quite distinct from that for the organization of the Government of Eastern Roumelia; and he concluded that it would determine the frontier between Bulgaria and the new territory ceded to Roumania, as well as the rest of the Bulgarian frontier.

Then came the sort of Consular Commission, contemplated by the VIth Article of the Treaty.

Consuls delegated *ad hoc* were to assist and control the Russian Commissioner, who was provisionally to direct the administration of Bulgaria. M. Waddington thought that each of the Governments must give a special delegation to one of its Consuls already stationed in Bulgaria. It seemed to him that there might be difficulties in the way of appointing any fresh Consuls, until the regular Government of the new Principality should be established.

The Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia was provided for by the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty.

These were, M. Waddington thought, all the Commissions explicitly constituted by the Treaty; but in a Circular, dated the 24th July/6th August, which had been communicated to him by the Russian Government, two additional Commissions were mentioned, one for marking out the frontier of Servia, and the other for marking out that of Montenegro.

M. Waddington said that, although the Treaty did not provide in express terms for the constitution of these two last Commissions, it seemed naturally to imply that they were to be appointed, and that all the Powers parties to the Treaties were to be represented in them.

In the Russian Circular it was proposed that the Roumelian and Bulgarian Commissions should sit at Constantinople. To this M. Waddington thought some exception might be taken.

On the other hand, it did not strike him that there was any objection to the proposals, also made in the Russian Circular, that the Servian Commission should sit at Belgrade, and the Montenegrin Commission at Ragusa.

M. Waddington said, in conclusion, that the French member of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia would be nominated in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 347.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 650.)
Paris, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me this morning of the language said to have been held by M. Fournier at Constantinople and at Athens respecting the visit of the French squadron to Greece.

M. Waddington told me that M. Fournier had certainly no instructions which authorized him to say that this visit was intended as a demonstration in favour of Greece and against Turkey, or that the French squadron had orders to protect the Greek coast from an attack by the Turkish fleet.

M. Waddington had, he said, on the contrary, carefully abstained from making any statements or giving any instructions as to the attitude which France would take in case of a disagreement between Turkey and Greece respecting the proposed rectification of the frontier.

He had been questioned on the subject by M. Delyanni, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had been at Paris a short time ago; but he had answered that Greece must pursue the course indicated by the Protocols and Treaty of Berlin. She must endeavour to come to an understanding with the Porte by diplomatic negotiation, and if it appeared to be really impossible to succeed in this endeavour she might then apply for the mediation of the Powers in virtue of the XXIVth Article of the Treaty.

It was, he had said to M. Delyanni, only in case of matters arriving at this stage that France would be called upon to intervene in the matter.

M. Waddington said that he had held the same language on all occasions; that he had, with regard to the Greek question, as well as to all other matters, urged the punctual execution of the Treaty of Berlin; and that he had declined to make any declarations as to what the conduct of France would be in hypothetical cases.

M. Waddington observed, however, that, speaking privately to me, he would say that in fact he thought it impossible that the Powers could allow the Piræus to be bombarded, or any similar measures to be taken by the Porte against Greece. He added that he understood that this was also your Lordship's opinion, but that the French Government did not think that the time had yet come for it to deliberate on the course it should take if the negotiations between Greece and Turkey should fail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 348.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 652.)
Paris, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON begged me this morning to remind your Lordship of the importance of obtaining the execution by the Legislature of Roumania of the stipulation in the Treaty of Berlin respecting religious equality.

He was himself inclined to make the recognition by France of the independence of Roumania dependent upon the ratification of this stipulation by the Legislature.

If the XLIVth Article of the Treaty were duly carried into effect by Roumania, France would be ready to treat her with every courtesy, and would accredit to her a Diplomatic Representative of the same class as the French Representative at Athens; but if this was not done, it would, for Parliamentary and other reasons, be very difficult for the French Government to overlook the conditions on which the recognition of the independence was made dependent by the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 349.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 19.)

Admiralty, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract from a letter from Commander Crohan, of Her Majesty's ship "Flying Fish" (forwarded by Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby on the 1st August), reporting on the state of affairs at Dédéagatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 349.

Commander Crohan to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

(Extract.)
"Flying Fish," at Besika Bay, July 25, 1878.

AT Dédéagatch the country is still in the hands of the Russians. From what I could gather from the Governor, upon whom I called, great dissatisfaction has been caused among the Russian troops at the terms of Peace, and the garrisons on the locale have within the last few days been largely increased.

No. 350.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received August* 19.)

Admiralty, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, dated the 29th ultimo, inclosing copies of a further correspondence which had passed with General Todleben relative to two officers of the "Swiftsure" having been detained by the Russians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 350.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Alexandra," at Prince's Islands, July 29, 1878.

FORWARDED for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with reference to my submissions of the 18th and 20th instant.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 350.

General Todleben to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

San Stefano, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Juillet*, 1878.

M. l'Amiral,

POUR faire suite à ma lettre du $\frac{4}{16}$ Juillet j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence, qu'ayant envoyé sur les lieux du conflit survenu entre des embarcations de la marine de Sa Majesté Britannique et un de nos avant-postes Cosaques, en outre du Colonel d'Etat-Major mentionné dans ma susdite lettre, le Capitaine de la Marine Impériale, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, Makarow, j'ai reçu de ce dernier un Rapport que je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-joint en traduction.

L'enquête fait sur les lieux par le Capitaine Makarow constate les faits suivants:—

1. Les deux officiers Anglais, le Lieutenant Robertson et l'Enseigne Evan Thomas, qui ont été arrêtés par nos Cosaques, et dont l'arrestation a été la cause première des complications ultérieures, étaient en habits civils, et l'embarcation qu'ils montaient n'était pas une chaloupe appartenant à la marine de guerre. Du reste ils n'ont été arrêtés qu'après qu'ils eûrent débarqué. Dans cette circonstance nos Cosaques n'ont fait que leur devoir. En voyant débarquer deux étrangers en habits civils et ne portant rien qui pût indiquer leur qualité d'officiers de la marine, les Cosaques ne pouvaient pas faire autre chose que ce qu'ils ont fait en arrêtant ces inconnus et en les reconduisant auprès de leur Chef. Celui-ci, le Colonel Koulaurenko, après que les choses se furent expliquées, s'est empressé de rendre la liberté a ces prisonniers de hasard.

2. Le Lieutenant Lorens s'est approché de la côte avec ses embarcations de nuit, quand il était impossible de distinguer la couleur du pavillon, et les Cosaques du poste n'ont ouvert le feu qu'après qu'ils l'eurent prévenu de s'arrêter, et que voyant qu'il continuait à avancer en dépit de cette injonction, ils ont cru qu'il avait l'intention de s'emparer de force du bateau appartenant aux deux étrangers préalablement arrêtés—bateau qu'ils avaient tiré sur la côte et dont ils se considéraient responsables jusqu'à réception des ordres de la part de leur chef, auquel ils en avaient référé.

3. Un seul coup de fusil a été tiré dans la journée, et quoique ce coup de fusil eut été fortuit, le cosaque qui s'en est rendu coupable subira la peine qu'il mérite.

4. Tous ces faits ont eu lieu sur un point de la côte où tout débarquement est interdit.

De l'appréciation impartiale des faits susmentionnés votre Excellence voudra bien se convaincre que s'il y a eu un conflit regrettable, la faute en retombe aussi bien

sur les marins Anglais que sur nos Cosaques. Dans tous les cas, afin de prévenir le renouvellement de faits pareils, il serait désirable que, toutes les fois qu'un des bâtiments de la Marine de Sa Majesté Britannique se trouverait dans le cas d'envoyer un officier ou quelque message à terre, dans une localité occupée par nos troupes, cela se fasse seulement dans la journée pendant qu'il fait clair et qu'on choisisse à cet effet des points importants de la côte sur lesquels se trouvent partout des postes d'officiers et où tout conflit et tout malentendu pourraient être évité.

En vous réitérant, M. l'Admiral, les expressions de mes sincères regrets au sujet du conflit qui a fait l'objet de la présente correspondence, je vous prie d'agreer, &c.

(Signé) ED. DE TODLEBEN,
Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée Impériale Russe.

Inclosure 3 in No. 350.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to General Todleben.

"Alexandra," at Prince's Islands, July 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the $\frac{15}{27}$th July, and in reply beg to inform you that since the last communication passed between us I have been instructed by my Government that the question has been referred to the Ambassadors at the Porte of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia and Her Majesty the Queen for settlement.

Under these circumstances it is not in my power to do more than to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch, and to assure you that I will immediately forward a copy of the same to the British Ambassador at Constantinople. I cannot, however, allow the correspondence between us to close without thanking your Excellency for the kind sentiments contained in the last paragraph of your letter—sentiments which I entirely reciprocate, and I hope your Excellency will accept the expression of my regard and thanks for the prompt attention you have shown to the representation I was called upon to make to you on the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 350.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to Sir A. H. Layard.

"Alexandra," at Prince's Islands, July 28, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, and with reference to my despatch of the 23rd instant, copies of a further communication I have received from General Todleben, and of my reply thereto.[*]

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 351.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August* 19.)

Sublime Porte, le 8 *Août*, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LE Congrès de Berlin ayant admis les Délégués du Royaume de Grèce à faire entendre les vœux et les appréciations du Gouvernement Hellénique, M. Delyanni a formulé et développé devant la Haute Assemblée la demande de l'incorporation à la Grèce de l'Epire, de la Thessalie et de la Crète. C'est à la suite de cette démarche du Gouvernement Hellénique qu'un vœu a été émis par le Congrès pour qu'il fût accordé à la Grèce une rectification de frontières, vœu qui a donné naissance a l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, par lequel les Grandes Puissances se réservent d'offrir leur

[*] Inclosures 2 and 3 in No. 350.

médiation à la Sublime Porte et à la Grèce dans le cas où les deux Gouvernements ne s'entendraient pas sur la rectification de frontières.

Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans au Congrès de Berlin ont, conformément aux instructions de la Sublime Porte, déclaré que le Gouvernement Impérial se réservait d'exposer aux Puissances le véritable état de choses en ce qui concerne la Grèce. C'est en vertu de cette réserve qui a été insérée au Protocole que le Gouvernement Impérial, après avoir examiné avec la plus scrupuleuse attention les raisons invoquées par le Cabinet d'Athènes pour justifier ses prétentions, soumet aux Grandes Puissances les considérations d'ordre politique et d'ordre moral qui doivent leur permettre d'apprécier en pleine connaissance de cause le caractère, la portée et les conséquences d'une cession de territoire à la Grèce.

La Sublime Porte est en devoir de déclarer tout d'abord de la manière la plus formelle qui ni Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ni son Gouvernement n'ont jamais eu à délibérer sur un projet de cette nature, et qu'elle a été appelée à s'en occuper pour la première fois lorsque ce projet s'est fait jour au sein du Congrès.

Nous savons que le Cabinet d'Athènes cherche à établir que c'est grâce aux conseils et aux assurances de quelques-unes des Grandes Puissances qu'il s'est abstenu, durant un long laps de temps, de tout acte d'agression contre les Etats du Sultan, et il espère ainsi démontrer que ces Puissances, qui ont paralysé par leur influence pacifique l'action de la Grèce, sont aujourd'hui ses débitrices et loyalement tenues de soutenir les revendications Helléniques.

Il n'appartient pas au Gouvernement Impérial de rechercher la valeur et la portée des conseils donnés à la Grèce depuis deux ans par les Puissances Occidentales; mais il est en droit d'affirmer que, si la Grèce a gardé l'expectative et s'est abstenue de tout acte d'hostilité directe envers la Turquie durant quelque temps, ce n'était pas seulement par égard pour les conseils et pour les promesses de certaines Puissances de l'Europe, mais bien aussi et surtout par suite de l'échec constant de toutes ses démarches pour se faire garantir contre les suites de son entreprise. Il suffirait de relire, pour s'en convaincre, le Manifeste publié par M. Déligeorge, ex-Ministre de Sa Majesté le Roi Georges, pour justifier son Ministère du reproche d'inaction.

Examinons maintenant la demande formulée par M. Delyanni devant le Congrès de Berlin.

Cette demande consiste dans l'annexion pure et simple de l'Epire, de la Thessalie, et de l'Ile de Crète au Royaume de Grèce, et serait justifiée, suivant le Ministre Hellène, par des arguments et des considérations qui peuvent se résumer ainsi :—

"La Grèce aspire à réunir sous le même Gouvernement tous les pays habités par des populations d'origine Grecque; mais elle reconnait la nécessité de limiter, pour le moment, ses vœux à l'annexion de Candie et des provinces limitrophes au Royaume, afin de répondre aux désirs de l'Europe. Cette annexion a été de tout temps le vœu le plus cher de ces provinces qui l'ont souvent manifesté par des prises d'armes. La satisfaction donnée à ce vœu serait un acte de justice et d'humanité qui compléterait l'œuvre pacificatrice de l'Europe, et rendrait aussi impossible le retour des troubles qui agitent périodiquement ces contrées. La Grèce, qui a subi de tout temps le contre-coup de ces troubles, et qui s'épuise en armements motivés par cette situation mor-male, et en dépenses causées par la nécessité d'accorder des secours aux réfugiés des provinces insurgées, et aux combattants rapatriés, pourrait désormais consacrer ses ressources au développement matériel du pays.

"La Turquie elle-même y gagnerait en sécurité, et les relations de bon voisinage qui s'établiraient entre les deux pays ne courraient plus aucun risque d'être troublées.

"Le rejet des vœux de la Grèce amènerait infailliblement dans ces contrées une conflagration générale à laquelle le peuple Hellène serait entraîné à prendre part, quels que fussent les efforts de ses gouvernants pour les en empêcher."

Telles sont en substance les raisons invoquées par M. Delyanni pour justifier sa demande d'annexion.

Il est facile de faire justice d'une doctrine qui, dangereuse en elle-même et contraire à tous les principes du droit politique, repose en fait sur des données historiques absolument erronées.

Le Congrès ayant tout d'abord et définitivement écarté l'idée de l'annexion de la Crète au Royaume de Grèce, et n'ayant maintenu comme réalisable que le projet d'une simple rectification de frontières sur le Continent, nous nous bornerons à rappeler que les habitants de cette île n'ont jamais pris les armes contre l'autorité légitime de la Sublime Porte, ni les uns contre les autres, qu'à l'instigation de meneurs venus du dehors et à la suite de l'invasion de leur pays par des bandes d'étrangers organisées en

Grèce, non pour porter secours à leurs frères en armes, mais pour leur apporter la guerre sans provocation ni prétexte.

C'est ainsi qu'à ne considérer que la troisième insurrection Crétoise, celle de 1867, la plus longue, la plus sanglante, on constate que l'Ile de Crète n'est point entrée en insurrection, mais qu'elle a subi une véritable invasion Hellénique. Le jour où l'invasion cessa, c'est-à-dire où l'insurrection ne trouva plus à s'alimenter au dehors, le pays fut pacifié comme par enchantement. Le résultat de cette triste aventure ce fut la ruine de l'Ile de Crète, la mort des trois quarts des malheureux habitants qui avaient dû s'expatrier, l'épuisement de la Grèce et la perte de tant de vaillants soldats Ottomans, défenseurs des droits de leur Souverain; ce fut aussi, du moins ce devait être, la démonstration frappante et douloureuse du véritable caractère des mouvements Crétois, toujours et exclusivement fomentés par la Grèce, sans souci des calamités qu'elle appelait périodiquement sur ce malheureux pays. La Crète étant écartée du débat par la sage volonté du Congrès, il reste à examiner dans le passé et dans le présent la situation des provinces limitrophes de la Grèce et la valeur des raisons invoquées par le Cabinet d'Athènes pour les détacher de l'Empire Ottoman.

Faisons d'abord justice de ce prétendu état de souffrance, de mécontentement et d'effervescence auquel seraient vouées l'Epire et la Thessalie depuis de longues années. L'histoire est là pour le démentir. Elle nous apprend que, depuis 1829, époque où le système féodal fut abolie en Roumélie, jusqu'à 1853, ces deux provinces ont vécu dans une tranquillité complète, qu'elles n'ont été troublées qu'un instant en 1845 par la résistance de la population Musulmane de la Basse Albanie à la conscription militaire, résistance bien vite étouffée, et qui n'avait, d'ailleurs, aucun rapport avec les prétendues aspirations d'indépendance attribuées à la population Chrétienne.

En 1853 l'Epire et la Thessalie ont été envahies par deux corps d'armée Grecs, qui ont saccagé le pays et commis sur la personne et sur les biens des Chrétiens eux-mêmes que l'on prétendait vouloir délivrer des excès tels que l'Angleterre et la France ont dû, pour y mettre fin, occuper militairement le Pirée.

Enfin, et après quinze années de repos, ces deux provinces ont été de nouveau troublées par des tentatives d'hostilités publiquement préparées sous les yeux du Gouvernement Hellénique. Des bandes de volontaires sont venues de la Grèce en Epire et en Thessalie, portant dans ces contrées le fer et le feu, obligeant les populations, ainsi que le Gouvernement Impérial est prêt à le prouver, à se soulever contre leurs autorités légitimes, et finalement venant échouer devant la sagesse et la fidélité de toute la nation. C'est alors, et en présence de cet insuccès, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique, découragé par le refus inflexible de la Russie de faire participer la Grèce au fruit de ses victoires, sentant l'occasion s'évanouir, a fait envahir par son armée le territoire Ottoman sans rupture de relations diplomatiques, en pleine paix, afin de s'assurer ce que M. Delyanni appelle "l'objet des aspirations nationales de la Grèce."

Si, cédant aux observations de quelques-unes des Grandes Puissances, Sa Majesté le Roi Georges a ramené ses troupes sur le territoire Hellénique, est-il possible que son Gouvernement puisse aujourd'hui s'en faire un argument pour soutenir que ces mêmes Puissances, en l'invitant à mettre fin à une entreprise aussi contraire au droit des gens, aient contracté envers la Grèce l'obligation de lui faire compter le prix de sa docilité au moyen d'une cession de territoire?

Quoiqu'il en soit, ce que nous venons de dire de l'état moral et matériel de l'Epire et de la Thessalie depuis cinquante ans suffit pour mettre à néant le premier et le plus considérable des arguments produits devant le Congrès par M. Delyanni, à savoir que les populations de ces provinces ont toujours subi avec impatience la domination Ottomane, qu'elles se sont constamment insurgées pour conquérir leur indépendance, et qu'elles n'ont d'autre aspiration que de voir leur pays réuni au Royaume de Grèce. Il est maintenant parfaitement démontré qu'au contraire les populations de l'Epire et de la Thessalie ont toujours vécu paisibles et volontairement soumises aux autorités Ottomanes; qu'elles n'ont jamais pris les armes spontanément pour travailler à de prétendues revendications; qu'elles ont quelquefois subi, mais jamais appelé l'intervention du pays voisin, et que, si elles étaient enfin débarrassées des entreprises préparées sur le territoire de ce voisin, elles continueraient à vivre heureuses et prospères sous les lois de l'Empire Ottoman.

Ce n'est donc pas au nom des provinces dont il demande l'annexion que M. Delyanni avait le droit de parler au sein du Congrès.

Parmi les autres arguments qu'il a fait valoir pour convaincre la Haute Assemblée, nous ne nous arrêterons pas à celui qui consiste à donner l'assurance que l'annexion demandée ferait le bonheur de la Grèce; nous n'avons pas qualité pour traiter cette

question, et c'est aux Puissances plus désintéressées que nous et qui ont étudié l'histoire de la Grèce depuis sa création, de décider si un agrandissement de territoire aurait pour effet de lui procurer la paix à l'intérieur et la stabilité dans ses institutions et dans son Gouvernement. Nous devons nous borner sur ce point à rappeler que l'honnêteté politique ne permettrait pas de dépouiller une nation au profit d'une autre pour le seul motif que cette autre nation en serait plus heureuse.

Le dernier grand argument de M. Delyanni repose sur cette affirmation hautement proclamée qu'en donnant l'Epire et la Thessalie à la Grèce, l'Europe fermerait à tout jamais l'ère des conflits et des luttes entre l'Empire Ottoman et la Grèce et consoliderait son œuvre pacificatrice.

Pourquoi faut-il que M. Delyanni ait pris soin d'enlever toute force et toute créance à cet argument en laissant comprendre, dès le début de la communication écrite qu'il a faite au Congrès, que les seuls et véritables vœux du Gouvernement Hellénique sont et ont toujours été de réunir sous la même domination tous les pays habités par les Grecs, et que, si la Grèce se borne à ne demander pour le moment que l'annexion de quelques provinces, c'est par égard pour la ferme résolution de l'Europe d'établir la paix en Orient sans trop ébranler l'état de choses existant.

En présence d'un pareil aveu que devient la séduisante perspective d'une paix durable entre les deux Etats? N'est-ce pas dire clairement que, si dans quelques années, dans quelques mois peut-être, la Grèce juge que l'heure est venue d'entreprendre une nouvelle campagne sur le terrain des revendications prétendues nationales, les mêmes causes ramèneront les mêmes effets, et c'en sera fait de cette paix qui devait être perpétuelle, et qui n'aura eu de durée que le temps strictement nécessaire pour préparer de nouvelles entreprises contre le droit des gens. L'Europe, appelée à se prononcer sur ce nouveau conflit qui mettrait de nouveau en péril la paix de l'Orient, et peut-être la bonne harmonie entre les Grandes Puissances, se décidera-t-elle à sacrifier encore les droits du propriétaire légitime aux convoitises d'un ambitieux voisin, ou bien hésitera-t-elle devant un acte qui répugnera sans doute à son honneur?

Quoiqu'il en puisse être, cette éventualité se présente avec un tel degré de certitude à tous les esprits, elle est tellement dans l'ordre des choses est conforme à la doctrine Hellénique, qu'il n'est pas possible que les Grandes Puissances admettent comme argument décisif en faveur des demandes de la Grèce la certitude ou seulement l'espoir d'arriver ainsi à tarir la source des conflits entre la Turquie et la Grèce.

Tels sont les faits et les considérations principales qui imposent à la Sublime Porte l'obligation d'en appeler à l'Europe elle-même de l'opinion qu'elle a émise au sein du Congrès touchant l'opportunité d'accorder à la Grèce un agrandissement quelconque de territoire.

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et son Gouvernement sont fermement convaincus que les Grandes Puissances, mieux éclairées sur la nature, sur les motifs et sur les suites de la demande formée par le Gouvernement Hellénique, modifieront leur opinion première et s'empresseront de faire parvenir au Cabinet d'Athènes des conseils de droiture et de prudence qui le détourneront d'une entreprise aussi injuste qu'impolitique. En tout cas, l'Europe ne voudra pas suivre la Grèce dans cette voie dangereuse et s'exposer ainsi à compromettre son œuvre de pacification.

Je vous prie de donner lecture de cette dépêche à son Excellence le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique et de lui en laisser copie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 352.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 202.) *Vienna, August 19, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ZICHY informs his Government that he has seen the instructions by which the Porte has informed the authorities of Bosna-Serai, Zwornik, and other Bosnians, that the Sultan regards the Austrians as friends, and that His Majesty's desire is that they shall not be opposed.

No. 353.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 19, 1878, 9·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 755, it will be time enough to decide as to withdrawal of fleet to Gallipoli when we see extent of first Russian embarkation.

No. 354.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 19, 1878, 3·15 P.M.*

ADMIRALTY has telegraphed to Commander-in-chief of the fleet authorizing him to act according to your wishes with reference to movement of ships under his command.

This is for the purpose of carrying out arrangements for simultaneous withdrawal of fleet and Russian army.

No. 355.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 973.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1878.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that in order to facilitate the execution of the arrangement which has been come to for the simultaneous withdrawal of the British fleet and the Russian army, the Board of Admiralty have sent instructions by telegraph to the Commander-in-chief of the British fleet, authorizing him to act according to your Excellency's wishes with reference to the movements of the ships under his command.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 975.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1878.*

WITH reference to the inquiry made in your Excellency's telegram No. 755 of the 15th instant, I have to state to you that when the extent of the first embarkation of Russian troops is known it will be time enough to decide whether the withdrawal of the British fleet to Gallipoli shall at once take place, or shall be delayed until it shall have been ascertained that the army is really retiring from the vicinity of Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 357.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 986. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 20, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 981, marked Confidential, of the 5th instant, relative to a project by an Association, of which the Duke of Sutherland is President, for the construction of a railway from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf.

I should wish your Excellency to give to the Duke of Sutherland's plan such

support as you can properly afford, without committing Her Majesty's Government to any financial responsibility.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 358.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 45.) *Tunis, August* 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that M. Pinna, the Italian Agent and Consul-General, having obtained his leave of absence, quitted Tunis on the 21st July, leaving M. Vice-Consul Grande in charge of the Consulate-General.

Without any previous notice however, M. Mussi, an Italian Deputy, unexpectedly arrived on the 5th instant, and has presented his letters of credence to the Bey as Italian Agent, his Government thinking it proper, in view of passing events, that Italy should not remain unrepresented during M. Pinna's absence.

The arrival of M. Mussi, under these circumstances, has given rise to many conjectures, particularly as it is stated that he has announced that he is entrusted with a mission.

It would be premature to offer an opinion as to the object of that mission. It is alleged by some that he is directed to inquire into the soundness as well as the results of the line of policy pursued by M. Pinna for the last thirteen years in Tunis; it is surmised by others that it is connected with the financial state of the Regency and the acts of the International Finance Commission; and not a few are of opinion that M. Mussi is instructed to watch the proceedings of France, should it be correct that she is contemplating the annexation of the Regency to Algeria.

M. Pinna was given to understand that M. Mussi intended visiting Tunis to settle a long-pending private claim upon the Tunisian Government, and he was allowed to quit his post without being informed that he was to be replaced by a Special Political Agent, duly accredited, either permanently or temporarily, to the Bey. It is in consequence of this circumstance that the Tunisian Government, the Italian Colony, and above all the French Consulate are anxious to ascertain the true motives that have induced the Italian Cabinet to send to Tunis a Deputy of the Chambers belonging to the Liberal party.

Whatever the object of M. Mussi's mission might be, it will soon transpire when I will do myself the honour of bringing it to your Lordship's knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 359.

Sir R. Wood to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 46.) *Tunis, August* 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires has proceeded to Paris on a fortnight's leave of absence, to be extended, however, should his presence be not immediately required in Tunis.

The shortness of the leave of absence granted to M. Raustan has led to the supposition that M. Waddington desires to see him, to give him verbal instructions with regard to the alleged proposal of Her Majesty's Government that France should either take possession of, or establish her protectorate over, the Regency, it being affirmed that Marshal MacMahon and his Cabinet take a favourable view of the English proposal.

I am not aware whether there is any real foundation for this report; but it is positively asserted that one of the French Plenipotentiaries at the Congress of Berlin wrote a private letter to M. Raustan to inform him of it, who communicated it to the Bey, in a confidential form, accompanying it with the observation that France could not give a greater proof of her disinterestedness and friendly disposition towards His Highness than by the rejection of the offer made to her by England.

It is superfluous to dwell on the perturbation caused by this report, which is daily

gaining ground. The Regent, his Government, and the Mussulman population, left in suspense, express the utmost anxiety with respect to their future destiny.

It being natural that, in a matter of this description, the arguments and observations of the British Representative, in opposition to the comments and declarations of the German, Austrian, French, and Italian press, should be received with suspicion and incredulity, I have deemed it useful to cause an Arabic translation of the speech delivered by Lord Beaconsfield on the 18th July, in the House of Lords, to be published in the Tunisian "Gazette," in the expectation that, by giving publicity to the explanations of his Lordship relative to the policy of Her Majesty's Government, which is directed to the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman dominions, as at present defined by the Treaty of Berlin, and not by their partition, will rectify the impressions entertained on the subject by the public. These impressions are rendered still more painful by the persistent statements of political rivals that England has reversed her policy with reference to this country.

It is, moreover, affirmed that the question of Tunis will be brought before the French Chambers for discussion in the month of October next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 360.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 768.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1878.

MEHEMED ALI PASHA leaves to-day as Turkish Commissioner, to carry out the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin with respect to concessions to Servia and Montenegro, and to reconcile Albanians to them. He informs me that he is determined to perform his mission in a loyal and conciliatory manner, and he trusts that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro will meet him in the same spirit and prevent effusion of blood. He would be very glad if they could be so informed through Her Majesty's Consuls at Belgrade and Ragusa or Scutari.

No. 361.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 769.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER read me to-day renewed instructions to Hafiz Pasha to use his utmost efforts to induce Bosnian population to receive Austrian forces as friends of Turkey. Hafiz Pasha states that he is making every effort in that direction, but that the people seem determined to resist, and that they have already killed several Turkish functionaries who have attempted to restrain them. Grand Vizier declares that no Turkish troops except Bosnian native battalions, who refused to obey their officers, have fought against Austrians. The only Turkish troops in the province went over at once to the Austrians. His Highness categorically denies that the Porte has in any way incited the Bosnians and Herzegovinians to offer resistance to the Austrian army. If there are intrigues with this object, they do not emanate from the Porte.

No. 362.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 770.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER has asked me to obtain your Lordship's views as regards the interpretation of paragraphs in Protocol No. 18, relating to the European Financial Commission. Is it to be named by the Powers or is the Porte to appoint it? Porte would be glad to have two able financiers—one English and the other French—not only to deal with the question of foreign debts, but to exercise a permanent control

over the finances of the Empire, revenue and expenditure. He wishes to know whether your Lordship would approve such a measure, and whether, in your opinion, it would clash with the proposed European Commission. He would much prefer, in the interests of Turkey and of her creditors, the appointment of two financiers, as he suggests, as they would not be hostile to Turkey; whereas there might be members of an European Commission who might be inimical to her and might insist upon measures which would cripple and weaken her. Grand Vizier is eager to avail himself at once of the services of two such financiers.

No. 363.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 772.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 20, 1878.

BILIOTTI telegraphs as follows:—

"Dervish Pasha has informed inhabitants of Batoum that Russians will enter on 27th instant, and that those who wish to emigrate can do so. Numerous emigrants have arrived from interior. Mutessarif was sent for sailing boats, and Governor-General has asked for instructions. Inhabitants of Hoppa intend to oppose Russians."

No. 364.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 773.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 20, 1878.

I COMMUNICATED to Grand Vizier substance of your telegram of yesterday relative to Bosnia.

No. 365.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, August 20, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams of the 16th and 17th instant, I have seen M. de Giers only to-day. General Stebnitzki of the Staff is appointed Russian Boundary Commissioner in Asia, assisted by Captain Count Levashoff; but as the country is not yet settled enough to fix any date for meeting, M. de Giers does not press for immediate nomination of British Commissioner.

He fears the Turks are preparing to receive the Russians at Batoum in the same manner as they have Austrians in Bosnia.

He acknowledges that the Treaty contains no mention of separate Commissions for fixing boundaries of Servia and Montenegro, but trusts your Lordship will agree to them in order to save time.

No. 366.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 980.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 20, 1878.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 983 of the 5th instant, reporting a conversation you had had with Safvet Pasha as to the means of effecting a settlement in Crete, and I have to express to you my concurrence in your views as to the part which Mr. Sandwith should take in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 367.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 982.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 20, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 975, inclosing copies of correspondence with Mr. Reade as to his recognition by the Russian authorities, and I have to express to you my approval of the instructions which you have addressed to Mr. Reade for his guidance under the circumstances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 368.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 992.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 20, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 758 of the 15th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that the approval expressed to you by the Sultan in his letter of the Memorandum drawn up by your Excellency, as to the reforms necessary for the better government of Turkey, is very satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

You will, however, be careful not to use any language implying that a promise to adopt the suggestions contained in this Memorandum can be construed as a sufficient contract under the Convention between Great Britain and Turkey of the 4th June last; or that it will dispense with the more precise arrangements in regard to which I have instructed your Excellency in my despatch No. 928 of the 2nd instant, to endeavour to obtain an engagement from the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 369.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. D. Wolff.

(No. 4.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 20, 1878.

IT has been proposed by the Russian Government that the Commission, of which you are a member, should meet at Constantinople on the 13th September. Upon my representation, however, the Russian Government have agreed to substitute the 1st September as the proposed date of meeting.

The Russian Government understand that the term of three months, prescribed by Article XVIII of the Treaty, for drawing up the scheme of organization for Eastern Roumelia, is to count from the date of the meeting of the Commission, and not from that of the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty.

Her Majesty's Government would have been inclined to have taken the latter view, but they have no objection to the interpretation placed upon the Article by the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, provided it is accepted by the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 370.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. D. Wolff.

(No. 5.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 20, 1878.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to act on her behalf in the European Commission to be constituted under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July last, I have to convey to you the following instructions for your guidance:—

The duties and powers of the Commission are laid down in Articles XVIII, XIX, and XXIII of the Treaty, of which two copies are herewith inclosed. The Commis-

sion is to elaborate, in concert with the Ottoman Porte, the organization of Eastern Roumelia. It will have to determine, within a period of three months, the powers and functions of the Governor-General, as well as the administrative, judicial, and financial system of the province, taking as its point of departure the different laws for the vilayets, and the proposals made in the eighth sitting of the Conference of Constantinople. The whole of these arrangements, when determined on, are to form the subject of an Imperial Firman, to be issued by the Sublime Porte, and communicated by it to the Powers. Until the completion of the new organization, the Commission will be charged with the administration, in concert with the Sublime Porte, of the Finances of the province.

The boundaries of the province are stated in Article XIV of the Treaty, and in Articles XIII, XV, XVI, XVII, XX, and XXI are laid down such of the main principles of its organization as were agreed upon between the Powers at the Congress of Berlin. Article XXII settles the amount of the Russian force of occupation in Eastern Roumelia and the neighbouring Principality of Bulgaria, and the period during which the occupation shall continue.

It is not necessary that I should enlarge or comment upon the provisions of these Articles. Nor do I think it desirable to give you any minute or detailed instructions as to the scheme of administration which you are to join in drawing up. Copies of the laws of the vilayets, and of the proposals made in the Conference at Constantinople, have been supplied to you, together with other papers, which may be likely to be useful to you. But much that is important in regard to the present and past condition of the country, the difficulties with which the Commission will have to deal, and the fittest method of meeting those difficulties, can best be learned from information gathered upon the spot.

I will confine myself, therefore, to the statement of some general considerations.

Her Majesty's Government, in agreeing to the stipulations contained in the Articles to which I have referred, had two principal objects in view:

1. That the Sultan's political and military authority over the territory included in the new province should be maintained intact, and that while the population were secured from exactions or annoyance on the part of the Ottoman soldiery, His Majesty should retain for all practical purposes an unrestricted power of defending his frontiers by land and sea.

2. That by means of reformed financial administration, of public and impartial Courts of Justice, of an improved system of police, and of local representative institutions, the subjects of the Sultan throughout the province, of whatever race or creed, should be placed on a footing of perfect equality before the law, should be free from oppression, and should enjoy security for life and property.

It is towards these objects that your efforts should be directed. In districts which are still occupied by a foreign force, and which after a long period of subjection to despotic rule have so recently been the scene of the most lamentable disorders, it is not to be expected that contentment and prosperity will at once be attained by the promulgation of any Constitution, however skilfully devised. But the Commission may aim at the introduction of a system by which the principal abuses will at once be checked, and which will promote the steady progress of order and good government.

By Article XXIII of the Treaty the Porte agrees to introduce in the other parts of European Turkey, for which no special organization has been provided by the Treaty, Organic Laws ("réglements") adapted to local wants, and similar to that adopted for Crete in 1868, excepting as regards the exemption from taxation granted to that island. These laws, which are to be drawn up in each province by Special Commissions, in which the native element is to be largely represented, will then be submitted to the Porte, which has engaged to take upon them the advice of the Commission, of which you are a member, before promulgating the Acts to put them into force.

It is not probable that any of the schemes in question will be submitted to the Commission until their other labours have been somewhat advanced. To enable you to deal with this part of your duties, you have been supplied with a copy of the "Réglement Organique" of Crete, and with information as to the points in which it is complained that it has been found to be inoperative or defective. Any further correspondence on this subject which may be likely to be useful to you will be communicated to you in due course.

For the general tranquillity of the Sultan's European dominions, and the stability of his rule, it is desirable that no one portion of his subjects should feel themselves at a disadvantage in comparing their institutions with those of other and neighbouring districts. Too much, however, must not be sacrificed to uniformity, and where simple arrangements have been found adapted to local requirements, and are not in themselves unfavourable to progress and improvement, it may be found better to retain them, with such modifications as may be necessary, rather than to sweep them away for the purpose of replacing them by others of a more complicated nature.

In discussing these matters with your colleagues you will be guided by your own judgment, and you will no doubt receive much assistance from the knowledge and experience of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with whom I should wish you to communicate unreservedly; but in all questions involving principles of importance it will be desirable that you should refer home for instructions before a final decision is taken.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 371.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 81. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Austen Layard, stating the hope entertained by the Cretan Christians that the island may be made a Principality, or have an autonomous form of Government given to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 371.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, August 9, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to receive, on the evening of the 7th instant, your Excellency's telegram of the 5th, marked "Confidential." In that you state that the Grand Vizier has declared himself ready to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Cretans regarding all their demands excepting that requiring that there be a majority of Christians in the administrative, judicial, and other local bodies. To this latter condition the Porte could not consent, and the Grand Vizier adduces good reasons against it. His Highness, your Excellency states, intends sending two confidential Commissioners here—a Christian and a Mussulman, by whom the island will be administered temporarily, until they are able to come to an understanding with the Cretan Chiefs, and definitive arrangements are made for its government. Your Excellency looks to me to use my good offices in bringing about an understanding, and you have every reason to believe that the Grand Vizier is animated with the sincerest desire to deal with the whole question connected with Crete in an equitable and liberal spirit. Finally, your Excellency will send me full instructions as soon as the Commissioners are appointed, one of whom will probably be Nikolaki Pasha.

As soon as I received this telegram, I saw, with extreme regret, that there was less hope than ever of the Organic Law giving satisfaction to the Christians, because the Grand Vizier had positively stated that the Porte could not consent to the one condition to which the Christians attach more importance than perhaps to any other, viz., the representation in the administrative and judicial bodies and the General Assembly according to the respective numbers of the two creeds. Seeing that, from intimations I am constantly receiving, the Christians seem bent on their island being erected into a Principality, or, at least, an autonomous State, I made bold to send your Excellency the next morning a telegram inquiring of your Excellency whether the Porte could not be induced to make the island a Principality or grant it autonomy, for that I was of opinion that a settlement of that nature was the only one likely to prove lasting. I added that there would be a stronger feeling against the Organic Law as soon as it should become known that the Christians will not command a majority in the admini-

strative, judicial, and other bodies; and I also stated that it would be unadvisable to take away the administration of the island, even temporarily, from Costaki Pasha.

I hope I shall be pardoned for having suggested that your Excellency should take a step without having had an opportunity of consulting you as to whether it was in conformity with the views of Her Majesty's Government, but I felt that there was not a moment to be lost, in case your Excellency was of opinion that there was room for making the request. Situated as the Christians now are, they will see themselves obliged to accept any terms offered them; but there can be little doubt that they will only regard the arrangement as a temporary one, and will avail themselves of the first favourable opportunity of getting rid of it. Should, therefore, your Excellency be of opinion that autonomy, involving less dependence on Constantinople, might be demanded for the Cretans, and the Porte be induced to grant it, there would result the enormous advantage of the question of the Government of Crete being settled in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants, who alone are capable, owing to the nature of the country they occupy, of getting up revolts. The Cretan Chiefs come over from Greece would be only too glad to settle here as peaceable subjects, instead of returning to that country to watch for the next opportunity of disturbing the peace of the island, and there would be every hope of an era of prosperity being ushered in. Measures would of course have to be taken to secure justice for the minority, but the presence of a good Governor dependent on the Porte would be the best guarantee that their interests would not be neglected, and they, equally with the Christians, would benefit by being freed from the constant dread of insurrectionary outbreaks. I do not doubt that there would be strenuous opposition to the scheme of autonomy on the part of the Mussulmans, but the peasantry would certainly regard it with indifference, and agitation against it would mainly proceed from the Mussulman Aghas inhabiting the towns, who, as having been in the possession of power for many years, are naturally unwilling to part with it.

I am glad to learn from your Excellency's telegram the approaching arrival of two Ottoman Commissioners to regulate the affairs of the country on the spot, where there will be many questions of detail to settle after the main question has received its solution. I ventured in my telegram to deprecate the administrative authority being taken from the hands of Costaki Pasha, because his Excellency has already to a great extent gained the confidence of the Christians of this part of the island, to whom he was formerly a stranger, and his usefulness at a critical moment would appear by the measure contemplated to be curtailed. The appointment of Nikolaki Pasha as Christian Commissioner is doubtless an excellent one, the only subject for regret being the existence of a misunderstanding between him and the Vali, which it will be to their mutual interest to remove.

I beg in conclusion to offer some explanation as to the apparent inconsistency in my having telegraphed to your Excellency on the 30th ultimo that the Cretan Christians desired certain modifications in the Organic Law, while a week later I informed you that they were in favour of a Principality. I frankly confess that when your Excellency requested me to inform you by your telegram of the 26th ultimo what were the views of the Cretan Christians as to the future government of the island, as you coupled the question with the further one, what modifications they required in the Organic Law, I was led to infer that it had been decided that that law was to be the basis of the government of the island. Subsequent reflection convinced me that such was not necessarily the case, and I had also become aware in the interval that the feeling against the Organic Law was stronger than I had at first suspected. I sincerely regret that, as I fear, I should have misunderstood your Excellency's meaning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—I beg to add that I yesterday sent another telegram to your Excellency, requesting you to transmit all telegrams by way of Syra, which is a much more expeditious route.

T. B. S.

No. 372.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 21.*)

(No. 669.)

My Lord, *Paris, August 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note, dated the 18th instant, addressed by M. Waddington to Lord Lyons, which reached me yesterday evening.

The note refers to the desire expressed by Lord Lyons, by your Lordship's order, to ascertain the views of the French Government respecting the formation and meeting of the different Commissions indicated by the Treaty of Berlin, and it also refers to the interview between their Excellencies on the 17th instant.

Lord Lyons has already, in his despatch No. 649 of the latter date, reported to your Lordship his conversation on that day with M. Waddington upon the subject in question.

M. Waddington, I should remark, states in his note that the French Government think with that of Russia that the meeting of the Commissions for Bulgaria and Roumelia might be at Constantinople, and that the meeting of those for Servia and Montenegro might be at Belgrade and Ragusa respectively; also that the Commissioners should be at the places of meeting by the 13th September.

With respect to the suggestion of the Russian Government that, in the work of delimitation, there should be unanimity in the resolutions, with the proviso that in case of disagreement reference should be made to the Representatives of the Signatary Powers at Constantinople, M. Waddington raises the question whether the majority of the Commissioners might not have the power of decision in themselves.

The note states that the French Government have not yet chosen their Commissioners, but that they think the importance of the task confided to the Commission for Eastern Roumelia demands functionaries of at least the rank of Consul-General, and that for the Delegate to be appointed in virtue of Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin, with reference to Bulgaria, they propose to give special powers to one of the French Consuls in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 372.

M. Waddington to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Paris, le 18 Août*, 1878.

VOTRE Excellence m'a exprimé le désir de connître la manière de voir et les intentions du Gouvernement Français en ce qui concerne la formation et la réuion des différentes Commissions prévues par le Congrès de Berlin.

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous l'exposer dans l'entretien que j'ai eu hier avec votre Excellence sur ce sujet, le Gouvernement de la République est d'avis qu'il y a lieu, d'après l'Article II du Traité, de nommer pour la délimitation de la Bulgarie une Commission Spéciale, dans laquelle les Puissances Signataires seront représentées, et que la même Commission, dont l'œuvre principale est de tracer la frontière commune à la Bulgarie et à la Roumélie Orientale, doit être en outre chargée de fixer les autres points de la frontière de cette même province.

Il me paraît, d'ailleurs, conforme à l'esprit du Traité, que la délimitation du Monténégro et celle de la Servie, en tant qu'elle ne se confond pas avec la délimitation de la Bulgarie, soient confiées à deux autres Commissions Spéciales.

L'Article XVIII stipule, d'autre part, qu'une Commission Européenne sera formée pour élaborer, d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane, l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale. Cette Commission aura à déterminer, dans un délai de trois mois, les pouvoirs et les attentions du Gouverneur-Général, ainsi que le régime administratif, judiciaire, et financier de la province; elle sera aussi appelée à administrer, d'accord avec la Porte, les finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation (Article XIX). Enfin, l'Article XXIII lui réserve la mission de donner son avis sur les projets d'organisation qui seront élaborés dans les autres parties de la Turquie d'Europe, pour lesquelles une organisation particulière n'a pas été prévue par le Congrès.

Le Gouvernement de la République pense, avec celui de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, que le point d'attache des Commissions à instituer pour la Bulgarie et la

Roumélie Orientale pourraient être à Constantinople, et celui des Commissions à former pour la Servie et le Monténégro à Belgrade et à Raguse. Les Commissaires devraient, ainsi que le propose le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, être rendus le 13 Septembre prochain au lieu de leur réunion. Le Gouvernement Russe suggère également que dans le travail des délimitations, les résolutions devraient être prises à l'unanimité, sous réserve qu'en cas de divergence absolue le désaccord serait déféré à la Conférence des Représentants des Puissances Signataires à Constantinople. Sans avoir aucun parti pris contre cette manière de procéder, nous nous demandons cependant s'il ne serait pas préférable, pour faciliter la tâche des Commissaires, de s'en rapporter au jugement de la majorité, et la présence au sein de la Commission de plusieurs Puissances désintéressée dans les questions qu'elle aura à résoudre semble recommander particulièrement cette combinaison.

Le Gouvernement Français n'a point encore arrêté entièrement ses décisions pour le choix des hommes qu'il convient d'appeler à faire partie de ces différentes Commissions; il pense toutefois que l'importance de la tâche confiée à la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale exige des fonctionnaires d'un rang assez élevé, et ayant, pour le moins, le grade de Consul-Général.

Quant à ceux qui devront être délégués, en vertu de l'Article VI, par la France, l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la Grande Bretagne, et l'Italie, à l'effet d'assister avec le Commissaire Ottoman le Commissaire Impérial Russe chargé de l'administration provisoire de la Bulgarie, les Puissances les choisiront, sans doute, parmi leurs Agents Consulaires, et le Gouvernement Français se propose de munir, dans ce but, de pouvoirs spéciaux un de ses Consuls en Turquie.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 373.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Août*, 1878.

LE Cabinet de Vienne cherche à faire croire à l'Europe que le Gouvernement Impérial aurait favorisé sous main et par des moyens détournés la résistance opposée par les habitants Musulmans et Chrétiens de Bosnie aux troupes Autrichiennes.

Je dois déclarer que la Sublime Porte n'a pas cessé d'exhorter les populations à accueillir les troupes Autrichiennes en amies. Des instructions dans ce sens ont été envoyées, à diverses reprises, aux autorités civiles et militaires qui n'ont pas manqué d'y conformer leur langage et leur conduite. Il n'est pas vrai que nous ayons envoyé des armes et des munitions de guerre pour servir à la résistance. Nous n'avons point encouragé nos soldats à faire cause commune avec les habitants qui ont pris les armes.

Ceux qui ont agi ainsi sont des soldats Bosniaques, originaires du pays même, qui ont été entraînés par leurs compatriotes; ce sont eux qui composent les bataillons revêtus de l'uniforme de l'armée Impériale qu'on voit parmi les habitants, et avec lesquels l'armée Autrichienne a eu à lutter. Les bataillons composés des soldats originaires d'autres parties de l'Empire sont restés obéissants à la voix de leurs Chefs, et se sont retirés au fur et à mesure qu'avançaient les troupes Autrichiennes. Il y a dans ce pays une effervescence générale que nous sommes impuissants à maîtriser. Les violences exercées contre nos fonctionnaires, dont un grand nombre sont tombés victimes de la population soulevée, prouvent surabondamment qu'il n'a pas dépendu de nous de prévenir cette effervescence.

Je vous prie de conformer votre langage à ce qui précède dans le cas où vous seriez interpellé par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur les événements de Bosnie.

No. 374.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, August 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Août*, 1878.

LES journaux Russes ont publié dernièrement une Circulaire aux Représentants de la Sublime Porte à l'étranger sur les difficultés de l'exécution du Traité de Berlin. Bien que les considérations contenues dans cette pièce représentent exactement la situation, néanmoins la Sublime Porte n'a jamais expédié une telle Circulaire. Vous pouvez donc la déclarer apocryphe.

No. 375.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 775.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 20*, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has been directed by his Government to come to an understanding with me as to the appointment of British members of the Commission for the delimitation of the new frontiers of Russia and Turkey in Asia in the Valley of Alashkerd, according to the Treaty of Berlin. Russian Government proposes that British Commissioner should take part in the delimitation of the frontiers of Khotour. Will you send me instructions on the subject? Russian Government wishes that the Commission should meet on the 13th September, as the season is advancing.

No. 376.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 776.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 20*, 1878.

AT Council held to-day Convention as modified by Count Andrassy was not accepted. Count Zichy informs me that bombardment of Bosna-Seraï has continued for two days, and that the inhabitants have now telegraphed to the Porte to obtain terms for them.

No. 377.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 21*, 1878.

THE Austrian troops occupied Serajevo on the 19th instant, after considerable opposition. Hafiz Pasha has been, at his own request, escorted out of the province. I have requested inquiries may be made as to Mr. Freeman's safety.

No. 378.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.—(Received August 21, 3:15 P.M.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Princes Island, August 21*, 1878, 11 A.M.

THE embarkation of Russian troops not yet commenced; only one steam-vessel at San Stefano. Three piers being built. Russians say they expect vessels.

No. 379.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1878, 5·20 P.M.

REPRESENT to M. de Giers that during the continuance of the provisional state of things, the greatest cruelty and injustice are being practised on Mussulman population in Bulgaria, especially near Shumla and Varna. Will Russia consent to Consular Commission being appointed, to hear their complaints and protect them when injured or menaced?

No. 380.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 762, the Porte is committing serious error in leaving Dervish with large force at Batoum. Inevitably the Russians will find some plausible ground for saying he has countenanced Laz opposition. On ground of this breach of Treaty, they, when the time comes, may refuse to leave Eastern Roumelia; and the alienation of Austria is becoming so serious that it may not be safe to trust too confidently to her action in turning them out. The Turks can gain nothing now by leaving Dervish at Batoum, and they may give the Russians an awkward pretext.

No. 381.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 459.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1878.

I APPROVE the language held by your Excellency to Carathéodory Pasha on the subject of Count Andrassy's views with regard to the proposed Agreement between Austria and Turkey as to the occupation of Bosnia and to the attitude of Greece towards the Porte, which you reported in your despatch No. 574, Confidential, of the 14th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 382.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 989.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1878.

IT appears from your Excellency's telegram No. 762 of the 17th instant that although Dervish Pasha has received orders to surrender Batoum as soon as possible to the Russians, yet that no perceptible preparations have been made for the evacuation of that place.

The Porte in thus allowing Dervish Pasha to remain at Batoum with a large force is committing a serious error. The almost certain consequence will be that some circumstance will occur which the Russian Government will look upon as adequate ground for alleging that the Turkish Commander-in-chief has encouraged the Laz tribes in their opposition to the annexation. Upon the ground of this breach of Treaty they may not improbably refuse, when the time comes, to withdraw their forces from Eastern Roumelia, and the alienation of Austria is now becoming so serious that it may not be safe to trust with any confidence to her assistance in compelling the Russian army to retire.

The Turkish Government can gain no advantage by leaving Dervish Pasha in occupation of Batoum, and his remaining there may furnish to the Russian Government a pretext which may be very inconveniently used.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 383.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 456.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1878.

I HAVE forwarded to you this day a telegraphic despatch instructing you to represent to M. de Giers that according to information received by Her Majesty's Government acts of the greatest cruelty and injustice are being committed towards the Mussulman population in Bulgaria, especially near Shumla and Varna, during the provisional state of affairs at present existing there.

I have requested you to inquire of his Excellency whether the Russian Government would consent to the appointment of a Commission, composed of Consuls of the Great Powers, to hear the complaints of the sufferers and to protect them when injured or menaced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 384.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 303.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th instant, stating that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs was desirous to possess information relative to the question of Eastern Roumelia and the constitution of the Commission for the organization of that Province, I have to inform you that the Commissioners named by Her Majesty's Government for that purpose under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin have left London for Constantinople, and that they will be ready to commence their labours as soon as those named by the other Powers.

Constantinople has, in the first instance, been designated as their place of meeting, and although Her Majesty's Government would prefer that the Commission should meet previous to the 13th September (the date proposed by the Russian Government), Her Majesty's Government doubt whether other Powers will be ready at an earlier date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 385.

Mr. Jerningham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 22, 1878.

INDEPENDENCE of Servia was proclaimed this morning; the Prince declares his intention to maintain it and fully to carry out the conditions laid down by the Congress. His Highness announces the cessation of the state of siege. The Prince and Princess, after the *Te Deum*, received the Consular Corps, and requested each to thank their respective Governments for their share in the work which they have made it possible to celebrate on this day.

No. 386.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 204.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 22, 1878.

INFORMATION has been received of the safety of Mr. Freeman, and all the Consular Body at Bosna-Serai. According to the official accounts the damage to the town and number of houses burnt are much less than would be supposed from some of the newspaper reports.

No. 387.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, August 22, 1878.

TURKISH Plenipotentiary is still without instructions authorizing him to accept Convention as proposed by Count Andrassy, who, however, still adheres to conditions he had admitted, but he intimates quite clearly that as things are now proceeding in Bosnia his terms may soon become much different.

I have told Turkish Plenipotentiary that as public opinion here is now strongly opposed to any Convention, I believed that unless an understanding with Government is immediately come to no vestige of the Sultan's authority will be left in Bosnia, and that Austrian administration will be extended to Novi-Bazar.

No. 388.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, August 22, 1878.

BARON ORCZY tells me that fighting between Turks and Montenegrins has begun near Podgoritza.

He does not know whether Porte has given orders for the evacuation of that place, but believes in any case that the Albanians will go to its assistance.

No. 389.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 777.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 22, 1878.

ST. CLAIR telegraphs on 13th instant to following effect:—

"Strong Russian column from Nebebin repulsed in disorder after sharp encounter at Karamusslar. Another advancing on Okobounar Pass allowed to retire without fighting.

"What am I to do?"

No. 390.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 778.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 22, 1878.

ON account of difficulties about shipping, Russians have postponed the embarkation of their troops until 28th instant.

No. 391.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 1023.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 14, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1002 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter which, on receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the day before yesterday, I addressed to the Russian Ambassador relative to the withdrawal of Her Majesty's fleet to Gallipoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 391.

Sir A. H. Layard to Prince Labanoff.

Excellency,
Therapia, August 13, 1878.

I HAVE this morning received instructions from Her Britannic Majesty's Government to inform you, in reply to the letter which you did me the honour of addressing to me on the 11th instant, that as soon as the army of His Imperial Majesty under General Todleben begins to retire the British fleet will receive orders to move down to Gallipoli. When His Imperial Majesty's army has withdrawn behind the line formed by Dédéagatch, Adrianople, and Midia Her Majesty's fleet will pass the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 392.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 1024.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of despatches from Mr. Consul Blunt on the subject of brigandage in Thessaly, and the effect of the visit of Commodore Manthorpe to Amaliapolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 392.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,
Larissa, August 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the robber chief Caloyeros, referred to by Mr. Longworth in his report of the 21st ultimo, which I inclosed in my despatch to your Excellency of yesterday's date, as having made his appearance at the head of a large gang in the district of Domoco, was last heard of in the district of Allassona, taking the direction of Karaferia, in Macedonia.

It is said that his band is composed of seventy men, and likely to become larger, as he has the reputation of being a successful brigand chief, of fearless and desperate resolution, and whose hands are deeply steeped in the blood of numberless Christian and Turkish victims in Thessaly and Macedonia.

He took a leading part in the late insurrection, firing Turkish villages, as well as the houses of the Christian peasants who refused to join in the movement.

Upon the cessation of the insurrection in May last, he sought refuge, with some of his followers, in Greece, where he was allowed to remain unmolested, and returned last month to his old haunts.

Although the Turkish authorities necessarily feel aggrieved on this point, so far they have made no formal complaint on the subject.

From the information received by the military authorities, it would appear that the brigands and the dispersed, so-called, insurgent bands have had the "mot d'ordre" from some occult authority to concentrate in the districts of Macedonia, contiguous to Thessaly, such as Selidja (Servia) and Karaferia.

In the meantime considerable numbers of outlaws belonging to bands which have been pursued and dispersed by the military have given themselves up to the authorities; and on the whole it is a relief not to have to report any recent serious acts of robbery or violence.

The Kaimakam of Pharsala telegraphs that a few days ago some Greek robbers carried off and drove across the border 300 sheep, and that the Hellenic frontier guard promptly took steps against the marauders and recovered and restored to the Turkish outpost at Kerli 215 of this flock.

I should also mention that the Commander-in-chief, Ali Saïb Pasha, read to me

a telegram which he received on the 4th instant from the General commanding at Tricalla, stating his having heard from good authority that the officer in command of the Hellenic cordon, in the vicinity of the Agrapha Mountains, had recently sent notice to the Greek brigands on this side of the border that should they not return to Greece within the term of twenty days they will be outlawed and treated as such by the Hellenic authorities.

Again, the Commander-in-chief, acting conformably to a Convention which exists between Turkey and Greece for the mutual surrender of military deserters, gave up on the 4th instant to the Greek Consul here two Hellenic soldiers, with their arms and a mare, who had been recently arrested within Turkish limits plundering hay, and who were brought here for disposal.

I should add that several Greek deserters had previously been surrendered in like manner within the last two or three months, and that in the communication which the Pasha addressed to the Greek Consul on this subject the hope is expressed that the Hellenic authorities will act similarly with regard to some Turkish deserters who at present are in Greece.

I consider these as symptoms indicative of a somewhat improved state of relations prevailing between the Hellenic and Turkish border authorities; and I have not failed to impress upon the authorities here, both civil and military, the importance of its maintenance, especially under the present circumstances, for, as I have on many occasions represented to your Excellency, it is chiefly by mutual and cordial co-operation on the part of the authorities of both countries that the crying evil of brigandage can be successfully combated.

The numerous hostages carried off by the brigands in the vicinity of Livadia, to whom Colonel Synge referred in his Report, which I forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch of the 20th July last, have all been released, with the exception of the Jew of Larissa, who has not the means to ransom himself.

I should report to your Excellency with reference to these hostages that several of their relatives and friends had represented to me that M. Nicola Bizzo, the brother of M. J. Bizzo, first Dragoman of Her Majesty's Consulate at Salonica, might be usefully employed by the authorities towards obtaining their liberation, as one of the brigand chiefs (Dimo Kazara) was many years ago a dependant on that gentleman's farm, and under obligations to him.

I communicated with the Commander-in-chief on the subject, who, far from objecting to that course, approved of my requesting M. Nicola Bizzo to proceed to Livadia and use the influence he may possess for the advantage of the hostages, promising a full and unconditional pardon to these brigands, providing they at once released all the hostages without ransom, about twenty in number; the Pasha remarking to me at the same time that he had strictly enjoined no attack upon the band being attempted, in order not to endanger the lives of so many unfortunate people.

At my request M. Nicola Bizzo proceeded from Catterina to Livadia, and had some communication with the brigands. I inclose a translation of his letter to me on the subject, by which it seems that he had prevailed upon the chiefs to liberate the fourteen Mahommedan hostages, on satisfying themselves that the latter were incapable of paying any ransom, but he was unable to obtain the same result with regard to the other five hostages, most of whom were well known to the brigands as possessing means to satisfy their demand for ransom.

These hostages, with the exception of the Jew from Larissa, before alluded to, subsequently to M. Bizzo's intervention obtained their release upon payment of a large portion of the sum of 1,300*l.* which it is said these brigands have realized from the numerous hostages they captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 302.

M. Bizzo to Consul Blunt.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul Blunt, *Livadia, le 29 Juillet*, 1878.

A PEINE j'ai reçu votre télégramme et lettre du 25 courant. Je me suis hâté d'exécuter vos intentions.

Hier soir je vous ai télégraphié, par voie d'Allassona, qu'à la suite d'une entrevue que j'ai eu avec les Chefs de brigands dans les alentours de Livadia, ces derniers ont délivrés entre mes mains les quatorze ôtages Mahommédans, lesquels sur le champ furent envoyés par moi au Commandant Militaire de la localité.

Hier matin je me suis rendu au repaire des brigands, qui se trouve dans une vaste forêt sur les montagnes; et j'ai eu une longue entrevue avec les Chefs Dimo Kazara et Dimitri Manzorani, durant laquelle j'ai employé tous mes efforts pour les persuader de désister de la mauvaise voie et de rentrer et vivre paisiblement chez eux; et je leur ai garantie le pardon absolu d'après les promesses données dans le Boyourldi du Commandant-en-chef. Mais, malheureusement, ni ces promesses ni mes conseils eurent d'effet sur eux. Ces gens ont refusé d'accepter l'amnestie. Les Chefs pourtant m'ont déclarés qu'en peu de jours ils permettront leurs hommes à rentrer chez eux, mais qu'eux, les Chefs, ont l'intention de retourner en Grèce.

Pour ce qui regarde les autres ôtages, quatre Chrétiens de Livadia et un Juif de Larisso, je suis peiné d'avoir à vous informer qu'il m'a été impossible d'obtenir leur délivrance, vu que les brigands insistent toujours à réclamer des rançons considérables.

Je vous renvoi ci-joint le Boyourldi d'amnestie délivré par le Commandant-en-chef, avec prière de le remettre dans les mains de son Excellence; et je vous informe que je retournerais demain à Catterina, ne croyant pas pouvoir faire de plus dans cette affaire.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) NICOLA BIZZO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 302.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, August* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, relative to the recent order issued by Ali Saïb Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the Turkish forces in Thessaly and Macedonia, directing the expulsion of the families of local brigands who refrain from making their submission to the local authorities, I have the honour to further report to your Excellency that a telegram, dated the 6th instant, has been received by the Pasha from the military Commandant at Allassona, stating that as soon as the order in question was promulgated there, seven brigands, natives of the district villages, made their submission.

The following are their names:—

Mitro Samara and Vassil Vanghel, natives of Yanotta; Athanass Arghiri, native of Dranova; Panayot Calambook and Theohari Bizoli, natives of Kellisalou; Nicola Goodi, native of Domenic; Nicola Apostoli, native of Tchapourna.

A telegram has also been received from Catterina, reporting the surrender of eight other brigands; and I have received a letter from my correspondent at Rapsani, a village on one of the slopes of Mount Olympus, informing me that the robber chief Yanni Liako, native of the village of Pirgoti, has effected his submission through the intervention of the Bishop of Platamona.

I am glad to say that the Governor of Thessaly, upon my representations, has addressed a Circular to the district authorities in the province, of which I inclose a copy, with its translation, explaining the sense of the order of expulsion above referred to, pointing out the formalities to be adopted in acting upon it, and holding them responsible for its proper and impartial application.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 302.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, August* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to that part of my Report of yesterday's date to your Excellency which refers to any improved state of relations between the Greek and Turkish frontier

authorities, I beg leave to subjoin the following extract of a letter of the 5th instant which I received this morning from Mr. Longworth at Armyro:—

"The Turkish Commodore, Manthorpe Bey (an Englishman formerly in Her Majesty's Navy), recently visited Armyro. Before doing so he first called with his ship at the Greek port of Moudjelia (Amaliapolis). His visit at first created some consternation among the inhabitants. The populace turned out with their rifles to prevent what they thought an invasion. But no sooner it was understood to be a friendly visit than the men, women, and children of all grades and conditions flocked on board to have a look at the ship (an iron-clad), and the people made the day a holiday. Manthorpe Bey encouraged this as much as possible in the interest of friendly relations."

I should report that Manthorpe Bey has recently been appointed Commodore in command of the Turkish naval squadron stationed in the Gulf of Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 393.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 1026.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a report by Mr. Sandison of an interesting conversation that he had yesterday with the Sultan. Your Lordship will observe that His Majesty highly approves the Memorandum that I submitted to him with reference to reforms to be made in his Asiatic dominions, and the measures which appear to me to be necessary to be taken to put them into execution. His Majesty further expressed his intention of writing to thank me for the suggestions that I have made to him, and of giving a kind of pledge to Her Majesty's Government of his resolution and earnest desire to carry them out.

The Sultan spoke to Mr. Sandison very earnestly about the absolute necessity of obtaining a loan, as without money it would be impossible to put any effective reforms into execution. Means for this purpose are, no doubt, most urgently required. I certainly agree with Mr. Sandison in thinking that, in the event of a loan being obtained, through the assistance of Her Majesty's Government, a condition should be made that an English Syndicate, or Commission, should superintend its application, especially as to the withdrawal of the "caimé," which is the thing at this moment most needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 393.

Memorandum by Mr. Sandison.

Therapia, August 13, 1878.

THE Sultan, whom I had the honour of seeing to-day, expressed his high appreciation of your Excellency's Memorandum on the subject of reforms. Few persons indeed, said His Majesty, could have made better suggestions, founded on so perfect a knowledge of the circumstances of the country and of its general requirements. His Majesty purposes writing to you himself, with the object of thanking your Excellency for the attention you have so kindly bestowed upon this matter, and in order, more especially, that what will be stated in his letter may be considered as a further pledge to Her Majesty's Government of his resolution and earnest desire to carry out, as soon as possible, the reforms and suggestions enumerated in the Memorandum.

His Majesty cannot help thinking, however, that very little could be really attempted in that direction, unless something were done immediately to improve the present financial situation. The progressive depreciation of the paper currency could not fail to increase the general penury and distress; and His Majesty would therefore consider it as a great favour conferred upon himself and his poor people if your Excellency would entreat Her Majesty's Government to help the Porte in contracting

a loan of 6,000,000*l.* sterling, the whole of which would be applied towards the withdrawal of the "caimé," or paper-money.

I may be permitted to take this opportunity of submitting to your Excellency that, in order to guard against the danger of seeing the proceeds of the loan expended for other purposes, the money should remain in the possession of an English Syndicate, and paid out by it for the actual withdrawal of the caimé only, in accordance with the scheme or project to be presented by the Porte about it.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 394.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 1027.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1878.

BY the new frontier in Asia assigned to Russia by the Treaty of Berlin, she becomes possessed of the ruins of the ancient Royal Armenian city of Ani, and, in acquiring it, she has shown her usual political foresight, as she did when she obtained Echmiadzin, the seat of the supreme Armenian Patriarch, who thus became a Russian subject.

I understand from Monsignor Narses, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, that the Russians have already formed the plan of rebuilding Ani, and of making it, as it were, the capital of Armenia. They hope to collect there, before long, a population of 10,000 souls. With this object, his Eminence said, Russian agents were already endeavouring to prevail upon Armenian subjects of the Porte to leave their country and to pass into Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 395.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 22, 1878.

I COMMUNICATED verbally to M. de Giers this morning substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and left him a note to be submitted to the Emperor.

His Excellency seemed much displeased at the communication. He said that Russia could not consent to the nomination of a Consular Commission to protect Mussulman population of Bulgaria, as it would be a reflection upon the Imperial army, who as long as they remained in Bulgaria were responsible for the maintenance of order, and could not be expected to submit at every turn to the interference of foreign Consuls. He asserted that Her Majesty's Government must have received greatly exaggerated accounts of what had taken place, and again and again repeated that the Russian commanders did all they could to afford protection to all classes and creeds. He then reverted to proceedings of Rhodope Commission as having been so hostile to Russia, and concluded by saying that he would submit my inquiry to the Emperor, but that he could hold out no hope whatever that His Majesty would consent to the Commission which was now suggested.

No. 396.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 779)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 23, 1878.

AHMED MOUKHTAR PASHA has been appointed Commissioner in Crete to act with Costaki Pasha, and will leave immediately.

No. 397.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, August 23, 1878, 5·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram No. 775, British Commissioner for Delimitation of Boundary in Valley of Alashkerd shall be sent out as speedily as possible. He will be authorized to take part in the delimitation of Khotour.

No. 398.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 998.)

Foreign Office, August 23, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to the inquiry addressed to you by the Russian Ambassador relative to the appointment of the Commission for the delimitation of the Turco-Russian boundary in the Valley of Alashkerd, your Excellency is authorized to state that the British member of the Commission shall be appointed and sent out as speedily as possible. He will be empowered to take part in the delimitation of Khotour, as proposed by the Russian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 399.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Jerningham.

(No. 194.)

Foreign Office, August 23, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that Mehemet Ali Pasha has left that capital on his way to act as Turkish Commissioner for the execution of those Articles of the Treaty of Berlin which provide for cession of territory to Servia and Montenegro. It will be a part of his mission to reconcile the Albanian population of the districts affected to the new arrangements. Before leaving Constantinople Mehemet Ali Pasha told Sir H. Layard that he was determined to perform his mission in a loyal and conciliatory manner, and expressed his hope that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro would meet him in the same spirit, and join in his efforts to prevent bloodshed and disorder.

In conformity with Mehemet Ali Pasha's desire I have repeated this statement to you and have authorized you to communicate it to the Prince of Servia and his Ministers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 400.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 13. Commercial.)

Galatz, August 8, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12, Commercial, of the 6th ultimo, inclosing a copy and translation of rules issued by the Russian military authorities with regard to the military bridge across the Danube near Ibraila, I have the honour to report that the Russians commenced taking the bridge in question to pieces on the 5th instant; and I have to-day received a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Morphy, stating that the whole has been removed, and that the passage of the river at Ibraila is now unimpeded.

The pieces of the bridge have been floated down the river in the direction of Toultcha, where, it is said, they will be put together again. A bridge is in course of construction at Ismail, and across the island opposite Toultcha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 401.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 24.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 23, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract of a letter from Commander Fitzgerald, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," dated the 5th instant, reporting on the feelings of the Montenegrins as to giving up Spizza and Dulcigno.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 401.

Commander Fitzgerald to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

(Extract.)

"*Rapid*," *at Corfu, August 5, 1878.*

I FOUND that the Montenegrins had not yet evacuated the town and district of Dulcigno, nor did they appear in any hurry to do so; they expressed it as their opinion that they had been very hardly used by the Berlin Congress in respect of the very small accession of fertile land which had been granted to them, and they considered it particularly hard that they should give up Spizza and Dulcigno, places they had taken with the loss of much blood; they had certainly improved the sanitary condition of Dulcigno, removed the slaughter-house from the centre of the town, cleaned the streets, and lighted them with petroleum lamps, repaired the public fountains, and laid a telegraph to Cettigne; they also have allowed the Turkish inhabitants of the town to remain unmolested and in peaceful possession of their property, notwithstanding that there were 200 troops in the town and several thousand in the district, who received no pay and very little food.

My information on these subjects was derived principally from an Italian engineer and a Greek merchant who did not appear to have any particular reason for undue sympathy with the Montenegrins.

Voyoida Ilia Plomanaz was acting as Governor of the town and district, a man of courteous and dignified manners and enlightened ideas.

No. 402.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 780. Most Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 23, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER is about to send instructions to Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to request Russian Government to consent to nomination of European Commissions in Bulgaria and Roumelia for the protection of Mussulmans, and to enable them to return to their homes. His Highness thinks that this course will be less likely to offend Russia than if the Porte were to apply in the first instance to the European Powers to name these Commissions.

No. 403.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 781.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 23, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant, I have seen a note from Russian Ambassador to Grand Vizier expressing his satisfaction at the arrangement made by the Porte for the evacuation of Batoum, and agreeing to an extension of the time for it to the 25th August (o. s.). Grand Vizier assures me that there are no further difficulties.

No. 404.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 782.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Aarif Aga, mentioned in Mr. Calvert's despatch inclosed in my despatch No. 1051, has been condemned to death. His Highness has protested to the Russian Embassy, in the name of justice and humanity, against this sentence. His Highness states that, in conformity with the Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin, Porte has granted a general amnesty to Bulgarians, who have been everywhere released, and that execution of Aarif would strike terror into the hearts of the Mussulmans, and prevent them from returning to their homes, and may be intended for this object. He would be very glad if, through the Representatives of Her Majesty's Government, the life of this unfortunate man could be saved.

No. 405.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 783.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA says he is willing to come to an arrangement with Her Majesty's Government about proposed reforms; but unless Porte can obtain money it is utterly impossible for it to carry them out. He earnestly begs me to submit following proposal to your Lordship:—

6,000,000*l.*, Turkish, are absolutely required. Interest upon this sum, at 4 per cent., would amount to 240,000*l.*, Turkish; sinking fund, at 4 (?) per cent., 60,000*l.*; total, 300,000*l.*

Porte proposes to give as guarantee balance of taxes of provinces of Aidin and Broussa, amounting to 290,000*l.*, and 260,000*l.*, Turkish; total, 550,000*l.* After deducting 137,500*l.* for portion assigned to loan of 1873, a balance of 412,500*l.* would remain to guarantee the interest and sinking fund of proposed loan of 6,000,000*l.*

No. 406.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 785.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from M. Biliotti, dated yesterday:—

"By order of Porte surrender of Batoum is postponed to 12th September, and Governor of Trebizond proceeds to-morrow to Batoum to try and calm population and make, if needed, arrangements for emigration. Departure of ships-of-war and embarkation of military stores from Batoum countermanded."

No. 407.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 786.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1878.*

DESPATCH from Acting French Consul at Adrianople, dated 19th instant, describes the ill-treatment of Mussulmans by Bulgarian conscripts. He says that, "murder, violation, and pillage are the order of the day," they surround Turkish villages, outrage women and children, and murder and levy ransom upon the inhabitants. He gives a long list of villages so treated. Appeal is in vain made to the Russian authorities.

No. 408.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 787.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated Larissa, to-day:—

"I have been confidentially informed that yesterday the Mahommedan community of Janina telegraphed to the Sultan, the Grand Vizier, and the Seraskier, praying to be informed if there is any truth in the report spread by the Hellenic Consul in that town that Epirus is to be annexed to Greece; and declaring their firm determination to oppose with all arms any such annexation."

No. 409.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 24, 1878.*

SERVIAN Government much pleased at the appointment of Mehemet Ali Pasha as Commissioner, and ready on their side to do everything in their power to facilitate his mission. They fear, however, that Albanians will prove refractory.

(Above sent to Constantinople.)

Up to last night Prince Milan has received very satisfactory replies from the Emperor of Austria, the Crown Prince of Germany, and the minor neighbouring States, to His Majesty's telegraphic announcement of the Proclamation of Independence.

No. 410.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 24, 1878, 1·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 770, as to European Financial Commission, the Protocol clearly contemplates a Commission named by the Sultan, and consisting of Representatives of all the Powers who choose to join; but its duty would be purely consultative.

If the Porte would place Asiatic revenue and expenditure under an English financier, and European finance under a French financier, I daresay the arrangement might answer, but the two together supervising the finance of the Empire would probably not agree, and everything would stand still.

I think something of the kind was tried in Lord Russell's time with no result.

We must not encourage any arrangement which would bring European management certainly into discredit.

No. 411.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1001.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 24, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 770 of the 19th instant, reporting the inquiry made by the Grand Vizier as to the nature of the European Financial Commission recommended in Protocol XVIII of the Congress of Berlin.

I have stated to you, in reply, that the recommendation contained in the Protocol clearly contemplates a Commission named by the Sultan, and consisting of Representatives of all the Great Powers who may wish to be represented in it. The duties of the Commission, according to the wording of the Protocol, would be purely consultative.

With regard to the desire expressed by the Grand Vizier to secure the services of two financiers—one English and one French—to deal with the question of the foreign debts of Turkey, and to exercise a permanent control over the finances of the Empire, both revenue and expenditure, I have stated my opinion that if the Porte would place

the revenue and expenditure of its Asiatic provinces under the supervision of an English financier, and those of European Turkey under a French financier, such an arrangement would offer good hopes of success. A joint supervision, however, of the finances of the whole Empire by the two would probably result in disagreement, and everything would, in consequence, be brought to a dead lock.

It is necessary to be careful that any arrangements sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government should not be such as would be likely to bring discredit upon European management.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 412.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 152.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 24, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 151, I have heard nothing further from M. de Giers. He will leave for Crimea on Monday evening with the Emperor.

No. 413.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.—(Received August 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Prince's Island, August 24, 1878.*

SEVEN fresh transports passed south through Bosphorus yesterday and to-day; I have seen one with about 800 troops and one laden with artillery [?] passing to the north to-day.

No. 414.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 25, 1878.*

EXCELLENT authority considers that the attitude of the Turks in Thessaly and Epirus is intended to provoke hostilities with Greece, and that if war ensues the blame should attach to them and not to Greece. 15,000 Thessalians are close to frontier: collision might take place any day. Another application will be made to Porte to give proposed frontier to Greece: if unavailing, Powers will be asked to mediate, and if mediation should fail, war is inevitable. Excellent authority would be prepared to cross frontier if safety of coast was guaranteed. Present state of affairs could not last more than two months.

No. 415.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 25, 1878.*

EMPEROR of Russia has raised his Representative here to the rank of a Minister. The latter has presented to Roumanian Government a very stiff Note demanding surrender of Bessarabia. No reply given yet.

No. 416.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 788.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 25, 1878.*

THREE Russian vessels carrying troops passed up the Bosphorus this morning.

No. 417.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Varna, August 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a despatch I yesterday addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, by which your Lordship will perceive how the Russians, whilst professing to be the special protectors of the Mussulmans, are actually driving them from the country.

If the International Commission is not soon established here it is very sure that there will remain but few Mussulmans in the province, as the Russians are hastening in the above work lest this Commission should interfere with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 417.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, August 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the evacuation of Varna and Shumla is progressing notwithstanding the extraordinary closing in upon these places by the Russians, at variance with the Evacuation Convention between the Russian Ambassador and the Porte, and to such a degree as to render the operations of the Turks more difficult.

General Stolipine has left this for Bourgas, and has been succeeded by General Ivanofski, Military Commander-in-chief of the Russian troops in Bulgaria, who has taken up his quarters here.

Outrages by Bulgarians on Mussulmans in the villages behind the Russians continue to be daily reported, the details of which are sent on to the Grand Vizier by the Turkish Commissioner here, who on receiving each report has immediate recourse to the Russian General here; but this latter invariably replies that he gives the necessary orders on the subject, but that he will find it difficult to put down these disorders until the evacuation be completed.

Yesterday some Bulgarian marauders near the Gnolidge Railway Station actually fired on the Turkish soldiers on duty there. These latter returned the fire, killing one Bulgar and wounding another.

From all we see it is very certain that the Russians are conniving at the conduct of the Bulgars, hoping in this way to drive away the major part of the population, and this is the more evident from the pompous professions of Russian officers to be the protectors of the Mussulmans especially—which professions are now being expressed whenever convenient opportunities present themselves.

It is idle to suppose that, were these professions honest and sincere, a single Bulgar would dare to lift his hand against a Mussulman.

The natural consequence is that the latter are fully aware of the real truth, and those who have any means are quitting the country as fast as they can, many abandoning much property, and which they can ill afford to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 418.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 582.)
Vienna, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I INFORMED Count Andrassy of the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, respecting the interpretation put by the Russian Government on the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Vienna, fixing three months as the time within which the European Commission should have completed the organization to be established in East Roumelia.

As his Excellency has not definitively fixed upon the Austro-Hungarian member of the Commission, but is in communication with a gentleman whom he is thinking of naming, but whose services would not be available at a few days' notice, he is not disposed to object to the proposal of the Russian Government to make the three months period count from the date of the meeting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 419.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 584. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM informed confidentially by the Turkish Ambassador that he receives many applications from the Ottoman authorities in different parts of Bosnia, who tell him that they can obtain no instructions from the Porte for their guidance as to their conduct towards the insurgents, and in their difficulty they appeal to him. The Commandant of Bielina, which place lies very near the Austrian frontiers, has, amongst others, informed Essad Bey that he is being hardly pressed by insurgents, who are endeavouring to oblige him to join them with the troops and guns under his command, and he inquires whether he should resist by force or retire upon the Austrian territory; but the Ambassador does not venture to take upon himself the responsibility of giving him any instructions, and receives no answer to his application to the Porte for orders.

It appears urgent that the Turkish Government should direct their Ambassador to convey proper instructions to all such of their authorities in Bosnia as he may have means of communicating with, but who may be cut off from direct communication with Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—*August* 22.—Since the above was written, the authorization has been given to the garrison of Bielina to pass into Austrian territory, but there seems some doubt whether they will now be able to do so, as there is a considerable body of insurgents on the road, who have already impeded the passage of about 800 Christian refugees, who were endeavouring to leave the country.

H. E.

No. 420.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 586. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 17, 1878.

My Lord,

CARATHEODORY PASHA has been authorized by the Porte to propose to Count Andrassy the Convention which he had suggested, with some modifications or additions that were at Constantinople judged necessary.

I have had a short conversation with the Count since the project was submitted to him, and find that, although he is prepared to accept the greater part of it, there

are still one or two clauses that he will not agree to, and upon which I do not conceive there to be the slightest prospect of his giving way, and an insistance upon which by the Porte must lead to the failure of all prospect of an understanding, which, in the interest of Turkey, it is so essential to arrive at.

The most important of the arrangements at which Count Andrassy takes exception is a clause under which it is provided that, when the state of things in Bosnia has become such as to permit exceptional measures to be dispensed with, each of the two Governments shall notify the fact to the Treaty Powers for their consideration. Count Andrassy absolutely refuses to take any such engagement, and it does not appear to me probable that any modification of its terms could be so devised as to induce him to agree to it; for he has an invincible repugnance, not only to any further reference to the Powers respecting the occupation, but also to any form of words implying that it shall, under any circumstances, cease, although it is true that at Berlin he consented to sign a declaration, in the name of the Emperor, that the occupation was of a provisional character. In my conversations with his Excellency, when endeavouring to encourage him to go as far as possible in meeting the wishes of the Porte it is impossible for me to allude to that declaration, which was mentioned to me by Caratheodory Pasha in the strictest confidence, though there can be no doubt of its existence.

There are likewise difficulties about some points of minor interest. The Porte proposes that the Convention shall provide that all the present Ottoman officials in Bosnia shall be maintained in their posts, and that all new nominations shall be made in the name of the Sultan; while Count Andrassy is not prepared to go further than to say that these officials shall, as far as possible, be retained, and that for the new appointments natives of the country shall be selected, if efficient men are to be found. As the whole administration of the province will be directed by Austria, Count Andrassy will not consent to the proposal of the Porte that the administration and the revenues of the Crown lands, forests, and mines shall belong to the Sultan's Government, those who administer the country being, he says, evidently those into whose hands the whole revenues must pass.

On the other hand, Count Andrassy consents that every respect shall be shown to the Sultan, by the Turkish flag being exhibited alongside of that of Austria, and by its being hoisted on the minarets of the mosques on Fridays, by the prayer for the Sultan being continued in the mosques, and by full protection being guaranteed to the Mahommedan religion, and also by the authorized circulation of Turkish coin, which, I am told, was a point upon which the Porte showed much anxiety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 421.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 587.)
Vienna, August 19, 1878.

My Lord,

MAJOR GONNE mentioned in his Report of the 16th instant that a body of insurgents had obliged the two Austrian companies that had been left at Banjaluka to retire to the citadel, but it appears that the latter succeeded in obliging their 3,000 assailants to abandon the place, but not before they had set fire to the suburbs of the town.

When the Austrian troops left the citadel they were again fired upon from the windows of some of the houses, which were at once entered and some five or six persons were taken out and summarily executed.

When speaking of this occurrence with Baron Orczy I took the opportunity of expressing the strongest hope that the Austrian Commanders would not consider themselves justified in executing any of their opponents who might fall into their hands. They could not with any justice be regarded as insurgents according to the ordinary meaning of the word; they were resisting the transfer of their country to another Sovereign, and were precisely in the position of Hofer and the Tyrolese, whose execution is always considered a stigma on Napoleon, and whose memory is especially honoured by all Austrians.

Baron Orczy observed that the men were executed at Banjaluka for treacherously firing at the troops from the windows of a town evacuated by the body of the insur-

gents, and the distinction is quite a fair one to make, but I shall not desist from urging the necessity of impressing moderation on the military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 422.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 588.) *Vienna, August 19, 1878.*

My Lord,

FROM time immemorial a military party, of which the views were invariably narrow and illiberal, has exerted a baneful influence over the Government of Austria that has contributed to many of the calamities which have overtaken the Empire.

The existence of this double current is at this moment very visible, and is, as usual, likely to prove extremely injurious. While Count Andrassy is anxious that the occupation of Bosnia should be carried out upon an understanding come to with the Porte, so that it may ultimately prove beneficial to the stability of the Turkish Empire, the military Commanders are endeavouring to give themselves the appearance of conquering an enemy's country defended by a regular army.

That the Bosnian soldiers, of whom whole battalions have joined the insurgents, were among those from whom the most serious resistance has been met there can, I imagine, be no doubt, but when the reports of the Austrian Commanders, describing the heroic bearing of their men under a murderous fire lasting eight or ten hours from vastly superior numbers, are compared with their returns of casualties, amounting to some five or six men killed, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion of there being a good deal of bombastic exaggeration for the purpose of exalting their own prowess.

The progress of an army through such a country as Bosnia, when opposed even by undisciplined bands, is not a matter of easy achievement, but the resistance that has been encountered, the part taken in it by regular Turkish troops, and the hesitation of the Porte in coming to an understanding with the Imperial Government, have had the effect of producing here a very general impression that the difficulties experienced in Bosnia are attributable to secret instigation from Constantinople. The language of the newspapers hitherto friendly to Turkey is every day becoming more inimical to her, and they are now declaring that as the Porte has chosen to receive the Austrian troops as enemies, nothing remains except to act as such, and to proceed to the conquest of the country which they had proposed to occupy amicably.

The public is thus throwing itself on the side of the military against the more conciliatory policy of the Government, and the position of Count Andrassy is, in consequence, daily becoming more embarrassing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 423.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 594.) *Vienna, August 22, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatches, which have been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 423.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, August 22, 1878.*

ON the 29th July the 13th Army Corps of the Austrian army crossed the Bosnian frontier, and on the 19th August, or the twenty-second day, took possession of the chief city, Serajevo. The main body, under personal command of the Commander-in-chief, passed over 230 kilom. of road, giving an average of 15 kilom. per day.

In Austrian "hunden," or the distance a horseman would ride per hour, from Brod to Derwent measures 4; thence to Doboj, 7; Maglai, 5; Zepce, 5; Branduk, 6; Bussovac, 7; Kisseljac, 5; Serajevo, 7; = 46 hunden, at 5 kilom. per hour.* The performance is a very creditable one, taking into consideration that a storm caused a halt of a day at Derwent, and damaged considerably the road, and that insurgents had to be encountered and outflanked at Maglai, Zepce,† and Kisseljac. The encounters were not serious, but the duty of outflanking was arduous, and took up much time.

The march of the right column, under the Duke of Wurtemburg, was facilitated as far as Banjaluka by the railway. From Novi to Banjaluka is 16 hunden, but three hours per rail; from Banjaluka to Zepce, 13 hunden; from Zepce to Travnik, 9 hunden. Here the column arrived on the 10th August, having marched an average of 12 kilom. per day, with an engagement at Zepce, and on the 11th August was able to communicate with the Commander-in-chief, who marched from Zepce on that date.

The resistance offered to the advance was determined and general, but entirely unskilled. The Redifs here and there fought no better than the fanatical peasant, and seemed really to have been forced into the fray against their will and judgment. I speak now of the centre and right columns; but the successful operations of the insurgents against the left column, consisting of a brigade of the 20th Division, with eight field-guns, were evidently directed by someone possessing a knowledge of the art of war.

When General Philippovits accepted the command, he urged that the force under his immediate orders should not be less than 100,000 strong, with 50,000 for the southern attack on the Herzegovina.

Baron Rodich, in Dalmatia, was of a like opinion, and reported that information obtained from Franciscan monks led him to expect a stubborn resistance from the Mahommedans.

This view of the situation was not shared by the Consular servants of the Foreign Office. Count Andrassy had pledged himself to do the work for 60,000,000 guldens, and without war—bloodshed there might be, but no serious fighting. In the sequel the military opinion has proved correct, for the left column, 6,000 strong, intended to guard General Philippovits's left flank on the side of Servia, was not only forced to retreat to Doboj, but was twice attacked in a defensive position on the right bank of the Bosna. The leaders of these attacks aimed at nothing less than cutting the main line of communication between Serajevo and Brod; and at the same moment an insurgent band in and about Banjaluka made an effort to cut the communications of the right column. To finish with the attacks on Doboj, I may mention that Szapary, with the remnant of his brigade, had been reinforced by Field-Marshal Lieutenant Schmegoz‡ in person, with some battalions of his, the 36th Division from Agram, and also two or more battalions of the 1st Division, under General Bienerth (these were on a peace strength). If my information is correct, the insurgents attacked 10,000 Austrians, with three Generals present, behind field entrenchments.§ The danger was a real one, and the Austrians know it. As regards the Duke of Wurtemburg's line of communications, I reported that the arrival of a force from Gradiska, with four smooth-bore cannon, enabled the Commandant to drive off the insurgents, and restore quiet in the town of Banjaluka; but four days ago Major Bolla, the Chief of the 1st Division Staff, with an escort, was unable to reach Banjaluka viâ Berbir.‖ On two occasions the Austrians executed prisoners as an example, first at Maglai, where mutilated bodies of Hussars are said to have been found, and after at Banjaluka.

* Population:—Derwent, 2,000; Doboj, 1,000; Zepce, 2,000; Maglai, Branduk, Kisseljac, 1,000; Tisgu, near Maglai, 2,000; Brcka, near Kisseljac, 3,000.

† At Zepce a halt was necessary to let train come up.

‡ Schmegoz was slightly wounded in the neck.

§ A weak attack was repeated next day.

‖ Reinforcements have now arrived.

The authorities seem hardly alive to the fact that, if a people ever had a right to fight for its religion and country, the Mahommedans of Bosnia are justified in disputing the passage of an armed force of strangers to the heart of their native land.

At first I am told that the Government of Vienna relied on the Hungarian reports adverse to the good faith of Prince Milan's Government, but now it seems to be understood that the Servian and Panslavic agitator Despotovits, with a following, is the only connection between Servia and the Mahommedan rising. When I had the honour to serve on a Commission to mark a neutral zone between the armies of the Sultan and of Prince Milan, the Russian Commissioner was most anxious that Despotovits should give evidence before the Commission sitting at Bijelina, in Bosnia, I, for one, refused to accept the testimony of an alien adventurer in command of a band of brigands. This was at the end of the year 1876. But since that date, Despotovits seems to have continued his agitation with some result, and it is highly probable that he is the actual organizer of the danger from which the 13th Austrian Army Corps has narrowly escaped. I am under an impression that Despotovitz received a military education in Russia, and undoubtedly he is a servant of the "Omladina."

The Bosnines seem to have made their last stand between Bolalovac and Kesseljac, but here, as on every other occasion, the flanking Austrian columns caused a hasty retreat, and they fled down the mountain spurs and over the plain to Serajovo, without destroying bridges or obstructing the roads.

Sunday, the 18th, His Majesty's birthday, a halt was ordered, and the stragglers from foot-sores were collected, also reconnaissances were pushed forward.

At early dawn of the 19th, artillery was placed in position, which easily silenced the badly-served Turkish guns, and with great gallantry the infantry took the open town of Serajevo by assault by 2 P.M. on the 19th.

General Philippovits describes street fighting in his official Report per telegram, and newspaper accounts speak of frightful scenes of carnage. The humane orders of the Emperor of Austria seem to have been forgotten when Austrian assaulting columns were let loose in the streets of a town thronged by unthinking and well-nigh irresponsible fanatics.

Why General Philippovits made no effort to save human life through the instrumentality of Hafiz Pasha, who is reported to have fled to the Austrian camp, history will show.* Nothing could have been lost by such an attempt, say after the Turkish guns were silenced; but the fact is that the military is antagonistic to the civil at this moment, and the worst diplomacy is hateful to the soldier. "Are not the diplomats the cause of all our trouble in that they led us to expect peace?" is the cry. I fancy the Austrians have paid dear in human life for their precipitation, but as yet the list of fallen is not published.

On the effect of such a terrible blow it is yet hard to judge. The rising being purely Mahommedan, with a band of Christian robbers here and there, much depends on the attitude of the Porte. If Hadji Loja is to fly the green flag at Novi-Bazar the sorrows of the invaders are to come. A march on Serajevo is a joke compared to an advance on a single line through the country around Novi-Bazar.

Your Excellency has already recognized the want of a Military Attaché at the head-quarters of the 13th Army Corps, which is to be supplied from home. To my mind it is a matter of regret that no foreign officer was present on the 19th to urge a measure of clemency in favour of a noble though misguided foe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 423.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Vienna, August* 22, 1878.

AS reports have reached the press that the brigade of the 20th Division, under General Szapary, fell back to the Bosna in consequence of a mutiny in some of its battalions, I consider it my duty to inform you that the War Office denies the truth

* Possibly such an effort was made.

of the rumour, which originated in Hungary. At first Hungarians were reported as refusing to march; but later, Slavs under Hungary were said to compose the insubordinate battalions.

The extra "Blatt" of last Sunday was confiscated for publishing an article against Szapary, who, it will be seen, is promoted in this day's special "advancement" list.

It is a significant fact that the list of fallen and wounded has been published as regards the last affairs, when the insurgents assumed the offensive at Doboj, but not of the three days' continued fighting preceding. There is never smoke without fire, and it is possible that the young troops evinced a spirit of discontent, especially as they are reported to have been over two days without rations; and also, it is said, that the men had to drag the guns after a total loss of horses.

The Russians and the Turks assert that guns were left in the insurgents' hands, but this is also denied at the War Office.

I do not place any credence in the report that battalions were decimated; but a force between 5,000 and 6,000 would not have retired before an insurgent band if all had been well between the commanding officer and men.

The subject is a delicate one to touch upon at the War Office, and some time may elapse before the whole truth is known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 423.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, August* 22, 1878.

THE Austrian Government intend to mobilize yet two more divisions, making, in all, nine, within the next few days, though His Majesty's signature is not yet obtained.

From the inclosed promotion list I imagine that the 14th Division of Presburg, commanded till now by perhaps the most talented leader in the Austrian army, Field-Marshal Lieutenant Ramberg, will be one.

The list will show the formation of corps, and "en cas que" it is not to be supposed that an "order of battle for war" is in course of formation for the whole army.

The promotion of General Philippovits and of the Duke of Wurtemburg will remove the unpleasant doubt which has hitherto existed as to who commanded the army of occupation. General Philippovits could only command his own column in a mountain defile, and it may be said that the three columns were launched without a reserve. All reported to Vienna; but who commanded at Vienna? This question no one can answer. Sometimes orders were sent by the Emperor's Cabinet Chief, General Beck, and sometimes by the Minister of War; on one occasion by both.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 424.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 507.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 22, 1878.

I INFORMED your Lordship that Count Andrassy said he proposed to name a Minister Plenipotentiary, but not an Envoy Extraordinary, to Bucharest; but I learnt to-day from Baron Orczy that it is now decided, probably out of deference to the wishes of the Roumanian Government, whom there is great desire to conciliate, that the Austro-Hungarian Representative shall have the superior rank of Envoy.

Count Hojos, the Imperial Minister at Washington, is believed likely to receive the nomination.

Nothing appears to be fixed as to the rank of the Representative at Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 425.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 599.)
Vienna, August 22, 1878.

My Lord,

CARATHÉODORY PASHA is becoming very uneasy at not receiving from his Government the authorization to conclude the Convention in the form in which Count Andrassy had stated himself ready to accept it.

He this morning saw his Excellency, who gave him no intimation that the resistance offered to the Austrians at Bosna-Serai had induced him to recede from any of his proposals, but he more than hinted that, if things in Bosnia were to continue as at present, his terms would soon become very different from those which he had offered.

I told Carathéodory Pasha that public opinion in this country was already pronouncing itself so strongly against the conclusion of any Convention that, unless in understanding were immediately come to, I believed all hopes of one would be lost, and that the occupation would at once take the character of an annexation, to the sacrifice of every vestige of the authority of the Sultan. I said that I further believed that a delay by the Porte in coming to an agreement would not improbably lead to a demand by Austria for the administration of the country as far as Novi-Bazar, where it was, under present arrangements, to be left to the Porte.

Carathéodory Pasha is aware, though his Government appear blind to the fact, that whatever reason the Porte may have to complain of the proceedings of Count Andrassy, his Excellency is, after all, the most favourably inclined to Turkey of those who may be called to direct the government of Austria.

Present circumstances must increase the influence of the Military Party, who, if they are the Count's opponents, are also doubly inimical to Turkey, and it is this Party which receives an accession of strength by every day's delay in the conclusion of the Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 426.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 601.)
Vienna, August 22, 1878.

My Lord,

BARON ORCZY spoke to me this morning with some despondency of the prospect of serious difficulties in North Albania. Information had been received of the commencement of hostilities between the Turks and the Montenegrins in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza. He did not know whether the Porte had given orders for the evacuation of that place according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, but if such orders were given he had no expectation of their being obeyed, and the Albanians would in all probability go to the assistance of the garrison, without it being possible for the Porte to prevent them.

Similar and perhaps greater difficulties were to be expected with regard to the district of Gusinje, which the Treaty assigned to Montenegro, for it was, his Excellency said, exclusively inhabited by Albanians, chiefly Mussulmans, and had never been conquered by the Montenegrins, who, indeed, had always avoided attacking positions from which they would have been successfully repulsed.

Baron Orczy has little expectation that these people will submit quietly to be handed over to their traditional enemies, and he looks upon it as certain that the Albanian League will aid them in their resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 427.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant I have received a note from M. de Giers to the following effect:—

Russia cannot possibly consent to nomination of independent Consular Commission to examine complaints of Mussulman population, or to protect them from violence and menace in the portion of Bulgaria occupied by the Russian troops. That duty devolves upon Imperial authorities who will know how to fulfil it.

The examination of Rhodope Commission unfortunately proves that such measures do not tranquillize.

The foreign Consuls in Bulgaria have full opportunity of assisting the Imperial authorities by abstaining from collecting doubtful evidence, and by reporting only such well-authenticated facts as they may learn. In such case they may be sure that well-founded complaints will be attended to.

No. 428.

Sir H. D. Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.)
August 26, 1878.

BARON KALLAI, late Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, appointed Austro-Hungarian Commissioner.

I go Wednesday to see him at Pesth, and then proceed by Galatz.

No. 429.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 780.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 26, 1878.

INSTRUCTIONS were sent yesterday to Carathéodory to accept Count Andrassy's projected Convention, with some modifications referring to distinct recognition of sovereignty of the Sultan, and the provisional character of the occupation as accepted by the Austro-Hungarian Plenipotentiaries at Berlin.

There is no Memorandum signed at St. Petersburgh referred to in my despatch No. 998.

No. 430.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 703.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 26, 1878.

SEVERAL transports have been conveying Russian troops to Odessa yesterday and to-day, but nothing more has been said to me about the withdrawal of our fleet from the Prince's Islands.

No. 431.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

(Telegraphic.)
Tehran, August 26, 1878.

WITH a view to the early repression of Kourdish depredations on both sides of the frontier, the Turkish Ambassador here has, with the assent of the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, asked for authority from the Porte to conclude an extradition Convention with this country.

His Excellency has also in view the retrocession of Khotour to Persia, urging

upon the Persian Government the settlement of the whole Turco-Persian boundary question on the basis proposed by the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs in his letter of the 20th September, 1870, to this Legation, which was inclosed in Mr. Alison's despatch No. 57 to the Foreign Office of that year.

Communicated to Constantinople.

No. 432.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 720.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 20, 1878.*

M. DE GIERS is now so constantly in attendance upon the Emperor at Tsarskoe Selo, that it is extremely difficult to obtain an interview, and it is therefore only this afternoon that I have been able to speak to his Excellency on the subject of your Lordship's telegrams of the 16th and 17th instant.

His Excellency at once informed me that as some misapprehension had arisen as to the exact meaning of his first Circular respecting the dates of meeting for the different Commissions, he had addressed a second Circular on the 7th instant to the Imperial Embassies abroad. And as the German Chargé d'Affaires was waiting to speak to him on the same subject, his Excellency requested him and M. Melnikoff, Chief of the Asiatic Department in the Foreign Office, to assist at the interview.

M. de Giers then went on to explain that, out of deference to the wishes of Great Britain, he proposed the date of the 15th August for the meeting at Constantinople of the Commission for elaborating the organization of Eastern Roumelia, but that he still proposed the date of the 1st September for the meeting of all the Boundary Commissions, viz.:—

1. The Bulgarian Boundary Commission, on which Colonel Bogoluboff would represent Russia, and which would have to define the boundaries of Bulgaria on the side of Roumania, of the Dobrudscha, and of Eastern Roumelia.

2. The Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission, on which Colonel Filepoff would be Russian Commissioner, and which would have to define only that portion of Eastern Roumelia bordering on Turkey.

3. The Servian Boundary Commission, on which Colonel Baron Kaulbachs II would be Russian Commissioner, and which would have to define the boundary of Servia on all sides; and,

4. The Montenegrin Boundary Commission, on which Colonel Baron Kaulbachs I would be Russian Commissioner, which would define the boundary of Montenegro on all sides.

His Excellency pointed out that the above arrangement had been proposed so that each Commissioner should have a separate field of operations, and that no part of the work should be done twice over.

I said that I understood your Lordship agreed to the dates suggested by his Excellency, but that as regards the third and fourth Commissions which he proposed, there was no mention in the Treaty of Berlin of separate Commissions for Servia and Montenegro.

M. de Giers acknowledged this to be true, but added that, unless separate Commissions were appointed for the different countries, the work would never be finished, and, as it was only in order to save time that he had proposed them, he trusted your Lordship would consent to the arrangement. He added, indeed, that he was under the impression that your Lordship had already signified to M. de Bartolomei your concurrence in it.

I said I merely wished to remind him that I had no instructions to express either agreement or disagreement as regards the Servian and Montenegrin Boundary Commissions; I had merely been desired to point out that they were not mentioned in the Treaty.

His Excellency then reverted to the question of the Asiatic Boundary Commission, and informed me that General Stebnitzki of the Imperial Staff has been selected as Russian Commissioner, and will be accompanied by Captain Count Levaskoff. His Excellency added, however, that he agreed with your Lordship that at present the country was too unsettled for the Commission to commence its labours on the spot, and therefore he did not wish to hurry Her Majesty's Government in any way in the nomination of the British Commissioner.

He added that the news from Batoum was not satisfactory. He was afraid it might in the end turn out that the reception given there to the Russian army would be similar to that which the Austrians were having in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 433.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 397.)
My Lord, *Rome, August 21, 1878.*

THE Turkish Minister has communicated to this Government the Circular of the Porte, relative to the demands brought before the Congress by the Hellenic Delegates, for a redistribution of frontier. No answer will probably be given to this communication until it has been submitted to the President of the Council.

Beyond expressing in general terms his opinion as to the manner in which it is drawn up, and the arguments therein used, Count Corti remarked, in a conversation I had with his Excellency, that it may perhaps be taken as conveying a refusal on the part of the Porte to entertain the rectification of frontier suggested by the Congress, the execution of which the Great Powers are under no engagement to enforce. Count Corti expressed the sincere hope that the Turkish Government would, nevertheless, see the necessity of giving this question their serious consideration, for, under the present circumstances, he is of opinion that every fresh difficulty and complication can only lead to consequences of a most serious character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 434.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 399. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, August 23, 1878.*

M. PAPARIGOPOLO, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, has asked me whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to reply to the Turkish Circular lately communicated to the Great Powers relative to the demands put forward by Greece at the Congress. I said I could give him no information on the subject; but that, so far as I gathered from a hasty perusal of the document in question, I was unable to perceive that it called for an answer.

M. Paparigopolo thereupon remarked that, in accordance with the suggestion of the Congress, the Greek Government had requested the Porte to appoint Commissioners for the rectification of the frontier; but no reply having been vouchsafed to their application, they naturally concluded that the Circular meant to convey a refusal on the part of the Porte to proceed further in the matter. Consequently it was the intention of his Government to appeal to the Great Powers, and if the Porte persisted to ignore their just demands, they had no alternative but to resort to arms.

I ventured to express the personal opinion that, as the Circular of the Porte did not appear to reject the suggestion of the Congress, it might, perhaps, be more prudent, under the present circumstances, for the Greek Government to limit its action to reminding the Porte of the urgency of appointing its Commissioners; and if the Turkish Government then opposed a refusal, it would be time to appeal to the Powers, or to have recourse to the serious measures suggested.

M. Paparigopolo then added that his Government felt all the responsibility they would assume in declaring war to Turkey; but the feeling in Greece with regard to this question was so strong that, unless the Turkish Government agreed to some sort of rectification, it would be difficult to avoid it. He felt confident, however, that his Government would do everything in their power to avert such a calamity; indeed, he led me clearly to understand that they would do so at any sacrifice, and that, though they may at first make difficulties, they are prepared to reduce materially the line of frontier traced out at Berlin, abandoning their claim to Janina, provided the work of the Commission was proceeded with at once.

From the different remarks made by M. Paparigopolo, I gather that the Greek

Government rely solely on the influence of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople, for it is evident that M. Delyanni has not favourably impressed the Italian Cabinet, which will be guided in its action towards Greece by that of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 435.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 791.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 24th instant, Grand Vizier informs me that instructions were sent yesterday to Turkish Ambassadors at London and Paris to apply to Government to which they are respectively accredited for an able and experienced financier [for service?] on the Financial Commission [?] to be appointed by the Porte. His Highness states that every facility will be given to persons chosen for the complete investigation of the revenue and expenditure, and that their decisions and recommendations will be implicitly accepted. It would be very important if we could select a really good man to be sent here. I mentioned to the Grand Vizier your suggestion that an Englishman should be employed for Asiatic finance and a Frenchman for European finance; but he did not quite understand how it could be put into practice. This arrangement might be made hereafter.

No. 436.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 792.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 26, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's telegram of yesterday, I have sounded Grand Vizier as to the attitude of the Porte in regard to [?] Thessaly. His Highness assures me that there is no intention whatever on the part of Turkey to attack Greece, but that as the Greek Government is concentrating troops and accumulating ammunition and stores on and near to frontiers, with evident intention of attacking Turkey sooner or later, she is bound to take measures for her defence. She will, however, give no provocation to Greece.

No. 437.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 794.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 26, 1878.*

FOLLOWING sent to Belgrade to-day:—

"Grand Vizier informs me that Mehemet Ali Pasha is now at Prisrend, or somewhere else on the Servian frontier [?] meet Servian Commission. He has received instructions to do all in his power to prevent agitation among Albanians, and to induce them to accept decisions of the Congress."

No. 438.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 26, 1878.*

COUNT HOYOS, at present Minister at Washington, will be appointed Austro-Hungarian Representative at Bucharest, with the rank of Envoy. Sent to Bucharest.

No. 439.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 26, 1878.*

BARON KALLAY, formerly Consul-General at Belgrade, is appointed Austrian Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia, but it is not expected that he will have reached Constantinople by the 13th September. I have represented importance of not losing time.

No. 440.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1878.*

RUSSIAN "Agence" contains a violent article, apparently official, complaining of British Consular Reports lately published, respecting attacks upon Mussulmans, asserting that they are untrue, and that they prove that England, in spite of the Treaty of Berlin, intends to continue in the East the same hostility towards Russia as before.

No. 441.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 27, 1878.*

"JOURNAL DE ST. PÉTERSBOURG" announces that Russian Agents in Servia, Roumania, and Montenegro have been raised to rank of Minister Resident.

No. 442.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *August 27, 1878.*

AFTER several hours fighting the Austrian troops occupied Serajevo on Monday, the 19th instant. Town not much damaged.

No. 443.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1003. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 27, 1878.*

I APPROVE the language employed by your Excellency, with a view to dissuade the Sultan as to the inexpediency of again employing Mahmoud Nedim Pasha in high office under the Porte, as reported in your despatch No. 995 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 444.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1005.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 27, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1,000 of the 12th instant, relative to the arrest of two officers of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" by Cossacks, and to the shots fired at the boats which were sent inquire after them. I have also

received from the Admiralty copy of the explanation of this incident received by Sir G. Hornby from General Todleben, and I am of opinion that under the circumstances the matter may be allowed to drop.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 445.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1007.) *Foreign Office, August 27, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1020 of the 12th instant, forwarding copies of a despatch and its inclosures relative to excesses committed by the Turkish troops at Verdi-Kussia. I should wish your Excellency to communicate to Mr. Blunt my approval of the representations which he made to the Turkish Commander-in-Chief on the subject.

I am, &c.
(For the Marquis of Salisbury),
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 446.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1008.) *Foreign Office, August 27, 1878.*

Sir,

I APPROVE of the answer given by your Excellency to a deputation of three Mussulmans who came to present a petition to Her Majesty's Government in behalf of the Mahommedans of Mount Rhodope, as reported in your despatch No. 997 of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 447.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 82. Political.) *Canea, Crete, August 15, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Costaki Pasha set out a few days ago for Rethymo, in answer to an invitation from the Mussulman inhabitants and refugees. They declared that the insurgents were robbing their Caroh trees of the unripe locust beans, besides doing great damage to the trees, and that they could no longer bear their misery.

His Excellency urged them to have a little more patience, assuring them that a term would soon be put to their sufferings, as the Porte was now engaged in making arrangements for the future administration of the island.

What is occurring near Rethymo is but the forerunner of what is likely to happen in a very short time all over the island if this unhappy question is not speedily settled. The Christians and Mussulmans will be mutually destroying the immature olive crops lying within their reach, thus consummating the general ruin.

It has been universally remarked that the absence from Canea of the notorious Hassan Effendi Kavouraki, whose banishment was brought about through Her Majesty's Ambassador's representations, has had a marked effect in preserving tranquillity here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 448.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 83. Political.) *Canea, Crete, August 16, 1878.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 69, dated the 24th June, I stated that a letter had been written by a Christian Chief addressed to a person concealed under a pseudonym, the envelope of which bore the name of the Greek Consul, M. Logothety, and that this letter had been intercepted by the authorities. It acknowledged the receipt of 275 beans, which were supposed to mean napoleons. The despatch containing this statement appeared in the last Blue Book on Cretan affairs, and having been translated thence into Greek newspapers, it has attracted the notice of M. Logothety. The latter assured me that the statement was without foundation, and desired me to retract it. I have consequently been at some pains to inquire more minutely into the story, and for the sake of my colleague I am glad to find that the letter in question was really intended for another person nowise connected with the Greek Government. M. Logothety has declared himself satisfied with the retractation which I felt bound to make, and I have also expressed to him my sincere regret at having been led to believe and report an accusation injurious to his character as a servant of the Hellenic Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 449.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 85. Political.) *Canea, Crete, August 19, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two dispatches which I have written to his Excellency, Sir Austen Layard, giving reasons in favour of retaining Costaki Pasha as Vali of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 449.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, August 17, 1878.*

ON the morning of the 15th instant I had the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram dated the 13th, which informs me that there is a rumour that Nikolaki Pasha or Sawas Pasha will be sent as Turkish Commissioner, in order to come to an arrangement with the Cretans, and your Excellency desires to know what the feeling of the Christians would be with reference to one or the other of these appointments. The same morning I telegraphed that the only objection to Nikolaki Pasha was his being on bad terms with the Vali, while, as to Sawas Pasha, he was much disliked by the Christians, and could never come to an arrangement with them.

The impression left by his Excellency, Sawas Pasha, during his tenure of office in Crete, after the insurrection of 1866, is such as to render his return here on a mission of pacification out of the question. It is greatly to be regretted that Nikolaki Pasha, who carried away with him the esteem of the people formerly placed under his administration, should not have been able to live in harmonious relations with his late Chief, Costaki Pasha. It is this circumstance which makes me fear that his appointment here might give occasion for fresh misunderstandings, and might lead to the resignation of Costaki Pasha, and no greater misfortune could happen to the island; for I consider there is no one so well fitted as his Excellency to fill the responsible post of Governor-General at this important crisis.

Impressed with these considerations it seemed to me that a functionary who was in no way interested in Cretan politics might be in as good a position to form a sound judgment as to the necessities of the place, and the wishes of the people as one who had been mixed up in local affairs. There being an apparent dearth of

Ottoman functionaries of Greek nationality suited to the required task, the name of Bedros Effendi Coyoumjian occurred to me. This official is personally unknown to me, but he enjoys, I believe, a reputation for sagacity and honesty. I accordingly, the same evening, had the honour to telegraph thus to your Excellency :—

"I take the liberty to recommend Bedros Effendi Coyoumjian as Turkish Commissioner, he being an unprejudiced person, and neutral in Cretan politics."

I have frequently regretted that the services of his Excellency, Caratheodory Pasha should not have been available at the present juncture, as no appointment could be more appropriate than that of this eminent functionary. Could his Excellency be spared from his duties at the capital I am persuaded that he would arrange affairs here in a very few days.

Fearing lest the unexpected arrival of Nikolaki Pasha might shock the susceptibilities of the Vali, I thought it prudent to sound his Excellency as to how he would regard his possible appointment to the office of Commissioner. I did not regret taking this step because my suspicions were justified, and it was evident to me that there could be no cordial co-operation between the two, if, indeed, Costaki Pasha consented to remain in office. Feeling strongly the importance of retaining the services of the latter now that his Excellency has gained a certain ascendency over the Christian population, and apprehending lest the interests of the island might be sacrificed to feelings of a personal nature, I thought it my duty to inform your Excellency at once of the state of matters, and accordingly on the following day, the 16th instant, I sent this telegram :—

"With reference to my telegram of last night I made no mention of the name of Caratheodory Pasha, because I supposed his Excellency could not be spared from the capital. His Excellency's presence would, I believe, in a short time settle matters here. I have reason to believe that Costaki Pasha will give in his resignation if Nikolaki Pasha be sent here, which will be a great misfortune for Crete. I cannot understand why the Porte does not allow Costaki Pasha to arrange matters with the Cretans."

I must apologize for the form in which the last sentence is cast. It may be that the Porte desires to have an independent opinion as to the state of public feeling here, but assuredly it could hardly find a functionary better qualified by previous training for coming to a satisfactory arrangement with the Cretans. Though possessing advantages in this respect over Nikolaki Pasha, the latter would, under other circumstances, have been able to render important services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 449.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, August 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour early yesterday morning to receive your Excellency's telegram of the previous day, in which you state that frequently in my despatches I had complained of Costaki Pasha, and led your Excellency to suppose that he possessed the confidence of neither Mussulmans nor Christians. In consequence of these representations of mine you had been induced to suggest his recall, and to recommend the appointment as Commissioners of persons likely to enjoy the confidence of both communities. You add that it is now too late to retain Costaki Pasha, and that Caratheodory Pasha is at Vienna.

It is quite true that Costaki Pasha has not enjoyed the confidence of the Mussulmans, but I never sought to blame his Excellency on that account, having frequently shown that their opposition was due to the hostility displayed by Salih Pasha and the military authorities, who had allied themselves with certain intriguers whom I thought it my duty to denounce to your Excellency. I pointed out that Costaki Pasha had incurred the displeasure of these men on account of his determination to thwart, as far as possible, their plans for attacking the Christians and arming the Bashi-Bazouks. This policy was that approved by your Excellency, and Costaki Pasha carried it out to the best of his ability; and if he was not always successful therein it was because he had not the means of enforcing his will. His weakness sometimes obliged him to agree to a compromise, and, when he could not prevent a military demonstration, to give his reluctant consent. To-day with unusual

difficulties he was left with hardly any money, and with a police almost mutinous. Since he has been freed from the factious opposition of Salih Pasha and Hassan Bey Kavouraki his relations with the Mussulmans have sensibly improved, and many of their leading men now acknowledge that had he not been hampered in carrying out his policy the prospects of the island would have been brighter.

With regard to the Christians his Excellency had undoubtedly lost much of their confidence from the moment that they assumed the character of insurgents, simply because he was an Ottoman functionary, and as such was bound to work in the interests of the Porte. Before the insurrection broke out, and since it practically collapsed, Costaki Pasha has enjoyed more of the confidence of the Christians than falls to the lot of most Turkish officials.

I sincerely regret that your Excellency should have gained the impression from my despatches that I frequently complained of Costaki Pasha.

On one or two occasions some months ago I had expressed myself as not quite satisfied with his Excellency's conduct, but it has generally been my duty to speak of him with approbation. My despatches are on record, and will speak for themselves. Certainly no Vali was ever placed in a more trying position, and few could have shown greater discretion in the conduct of affairs at a most difficult crisis, when only the shadow of authority was left to him.

I trust that I shall be pardoned for the freedom of my remarks, to which I have been impelled by the feeling that, through my fault, a most able and meritorious functionary has not been properly appreciated.

I learn with great satisfaction that the Christian Commissioner likely shortly to arrive will be Nikolaki Pasha Sartinski. So able and upright a man will have an excellent chance of speedily bringing peace to this distracted island; for in the subordinate position he formerly occupied as Mutessarif of Sphakia, he gave proofs of unusual ability and tact, and left a most favourable impression with the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 450.

Consul Barker to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 35. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 17th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, inclosing a petition from the Christian insurgents in Mount Olympus, setting forth their refusal to return to their homes as long as the Government takes no measures to repress and punish the lawless acts and outrages inflicted on them by the Albanians and Circassians in the pay of the Mussulman landed proprietors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 450.

Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 17, 1878.

THE inclosed translated copy of a petition which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency from the Christian insurgent inhabitants of the district about Mount Olympus, has been presented to the Vali of Salonica and to the Consular Corps here, setting forth their refusal to return to their homes as long as the Government takes no measures to repress the excesses committed on them and their families by the Albanians and Circassians in the pay of the Mussulman landed proprietors, and by the officers of the regular troops.

I have no means of ascertaining if all, or any of the complaints alleged by the petitioners be true, but judging from complaints which are continually being made to the Vali from other quarters against the acts of certain officers of the regular army,

and from the professed inability of the civil authorities to interfere with the military, there would be some truth in them.

Supposing they were true, the remedy could only come from the capital through the Seraskierate, for the civil power here has, from the beginning of the late war, been completely set aside in such matters, or, at least, such is the repeated assurances to all applications, and in all cases I apply directly to the military Commander.

Salih Pasha has left to take the command of the troops at Monastir, and Chefket Pasha, of Bulgarian notoriety, has arrived here from Monastir to replace him in the command of all the forces here.

Constant Pasha (Armenian) has come from Serajevo, having fled for his life, and narrowly escaped, from the insurgents, and he leaves to-morrow morning by the steamer which takes this despatch to Constantinople.

His Excellency Rifaat Pasha has requested me to inform your Excellency that there are in this vilayet, and in that of Kossova, 170,000 Mussulman refugees, who wish to return to their homes in Bosnia, Servia, and in the districts which have been lately the seats of the war.

An Austrian steamer left the day before yesterday with 1,025 Tartars and a few Circassians for Alexandretta in Syria. The next steamer, we are told, will be sent to Catterina to take the Circassians.

We have no men-of-war of any nation here at present.

The French corvette "Lavoche Travihe" came in during the week, but has left again for Volo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 450.

Petition of the Christian Insurgents in Mount Olympus to the Governor-General of Salonica and to the British Consul.

(Traduction du Grec.)

A M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Salonique.

Mont Olympe, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Juillet, 1878.

M. le Consul,

NOUS avons pris connaissance de votre Ordonnance, par laquelle vous nous avancez un délai de vingt jours pour que nous rentrons dans nos foyers, et que nous soyons tranquilles, et chacun de nous reprenne son affaire, et, en cas contraire, vous nous combattrez; nos familles et parents seront arrêtés, et pour tout cela nous avons jugé de notre devoir de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

1. Nous nous sommes insurgés, ne pouvant plus supporter les méfaits continuels de zaptiehs et souvaris, et voyant les vues des Circassiens, Soubachis, et Sémons, et la conduite préméditée des autorités, lesquels disculpaient nos malfaiteurs, et nous les victimes, nous traitaient comme des rebelles, et non comme créatures du Tout-Puissant; on nous a enlevé tous nos biens; toujours on fait mettre à la mort plusieurs d'entre nous; tout ce que nous possédons est exposé à leur clémence. Jamais ont été admises nos plaintes, M. le Consul, et par cette fois un coup d'œil paternel sur nous pour protéger notre droit; c'est pour cela que nous avons été engagés à nous insurger. Après tous ces entretiens le Gouvernement Anglais a informé, et nous a conseillés, en nous promettant en même temps, et officiellement, à nos généraux et Chefs, l'honneur et la sécurité de nos biens, et que les Hellènes de la Grèce devaient retourner en Grèce, et les habitants indigènes rentrer à leurs foyers et être exempts. Nous avons entendu et respecté ces conseils, et chacun a commencé à rentrer à sa maison. Pour tout cela nous avons jugé de notre devoir de porter à votre connaissance, M. le Consul, diverses raisons qui nous ont forcé à nous retirer dans les montagnes et forêts, et demandons votre décision juste et impartiale.

2. Lorsqu'au mois de Février que l'insurrection eut lieu, le Gouvernement ne se contenta de faire son devoir, mais reste simple spectateur, voyant les Turcs habitants de Verria, et Catterina, les Guègues, Toskes, Circassiens, et autres dépouillant et assassinant des honorables et innocents vieillards et enfants, brûlant nos églises, déshonorant notre religion, et faisant enfin les plus grands méfaits, et par cela aux hommes les plus innocents et paisibles; et ne se trouvant satisfaits de tous ces tragédies, et après avoir entendu l'intervention de la Grande Bretagne, et conformément à la volonté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, parmi lequel les autorités devraient mettre en exécution les mesures nécessaires pour rétablir la justice promise, et en vertu des promesses

solennelles, les rebelles ont commencé à se rapatrier, et nous nous sommes comportés dorénavant. Mais les Guègues, Circassiens, et Turcs, tout au contraire, et les autorités des places les protégent, et pour votre bon gouverne nous vous signalons quelques événements. Les Soubachis des Tchetliks Tassit Pacha organisent divers corps de brigands Albanais, au nombre de 300 environ, qu'ils ont fait venir de leur patrie, lesquels ont été divisés en divers corps, et ont commencé à mener en esclavage, rançonner, dépouiller et assassiner les Chrétiens.

Les principaux Chefs sont: Mazulis de Moloyon, avec son neveu. Abdulin Hustaga entretient toujours trente ou quarante Albanais dans leur Tchetliks, ont assassiné des Chrétiens innocents, qui ne se sont trouvé jamais à l'insurrection; ils dépouillent tout récemment des biens des familles, des bétails, &c. Abeh Bei, de Nesselé, a égorgé sept Chrétiens innocents, et les dépouilla de tout. Le fameux Feir, et son frère Ibrain, de Lébanon, guident des bandes d'Albanais et Guègues, et sont indescriptibles leurs crimes; plusieurs fois par plaisir ils ont assassiné et mettent à mort plusieurs gens. Leur butin monte à des milliers de livres. L'honneur des filles et des enfants ne sont point respecté. Les Turcs de Grisali, Tschun Bei de Palochorie, et Arapus de Catterina, tous sont Chefs de bandes; de plus Cherif et Teïr, bonnes favoris de Feïr Bey, qui ont enlevé et expédié à Feïr Bey plusieurs charges de butin, et ont été embarqués dans des Caïes de l'échelle de Ebrotherechori, parce que tous Chefs de bandes Albanais sont protégés par Tïer Bey et autres Begs (lorsque l'autorité les poursuivre). Ce même Teïr Bey, croyant de son devoir de s'entendre avec les Circassiens, en y ajoutant à ces derniers vingt-cinq Albanais des Tchetliks de Hassit Pacha; et ainsi il a composé une bande d'Albanais-Circassiens. Les Circassiens sont vêtus de la robe des Albanais (fustanella), errent partout, et effectuent plusieurs assassinats; plusieurs d'eux se font surnommer de nous Chrétiens pour qu'on accuse à nous-mêmes. C'est la pure vérité. Le fils de Redgeb Aga, de Catterina, est le brigand le plus fameux, et le guide des Circassiens, que nous nous réservons de faire plus ample mention.

Rôhanis, de Skelitgé, Chaban Arafi, de Calura, Arifant, de Verria, et Muraglis, brigands stigmatisés, opèrent plusieurs crimes, assassinats et scélératesses. Les Bimbachis des zaptiehs arrivent à Catterina, commençant par plusieurs tortures, emprisonnements, rançons et faisant plusieurs arrestations, maltraitant tous ceux qui se présentent et les paisibles villageois qui sont venus rapatrier, conformément à l'amnistie, qui leur a été accordée. Généraux et soldats dans les villes et villages sont de la même conduite.

Les habitants Chrétiens déposant les armes, au lieu d'être en sécurité, ont été menacés de mort, et le sont encore par les personnes sus-nommées, et si leur conduite n'était de la sorte, personne d'entre nous ne se trouverait dans les montagnes et les forêts.

Nous ne faisons aucun crime, nous sauvegardons notre vie et point d'autre, nous ne sommes point mêlés avec des brigands étrangers. Nous ne faisons que communiquer notre sort à votre Excellence. Il ne faut pas répondre que vous nous accusiez à tort et nous menacer de mort, et par l'arrestation de nos familles. Faites arrêter les brigands énoncés plus haut, portez les devant les autorités civiles et militaires; ils sont connus partout le reste, et lorsque nous verrons leur punitions et exils, et le désarmement des Circassiens, et lorsque nous serons en sécurité, on ne nous assassinera plus, et ne nous dépouillent de nos biens, sans être traduits de personne, alors, sans aucune invitation et menace, nous rentrerons nous mêmes dans nos foyers, et nous reprendrons nos affaires. Nous croyons que vous n'avez aucun droit de vous plaindre que nous ayons assassiné ou pillé. Nous ne doutons point, Excellence, que vous ne le trouverez juste que les malfaiteurs stigmatisés se promènent partout en liberté, et que nous soyons menacés de mort et poursuivis.

Ayant tout notre espoir dans la décision juste et impartiale de votre Excellence, nous nous conformerons à vos instructions.

Nous nous signons avec hommages,

(Les habitants Chrétiens se trouvant dans les montagnes et forêts.)

No. 451.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 26 Août, 1878.

My Lord,

PAR la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de Son Altesse Safvet Pasha, votre Excellence remarquera que je suis chargé de la prier de la part du Gouvernement Impériale de vouloir bien nous désigner, parmi les hautes fonctionnaires de finance Anglais en activité ou en retraite, celui que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine jugerait le plus propre à éclairer par ses lumières et son expérience les travaux d'un Conseil Supérieur qui va être institué à Constantinople, et qu'aura pour attributions de préparer la réorganisation des finances de l'Empire, d'élaborer à cet effet les lois et règlements d'Administration Générale des recettes et des dépenses de l'Etat, d'étudier toutes les questions se rattachant à la Dette Publique intérieure et extérieure, et de proposer les plans et les combinaisons nécessaires à cet égard.

Je viens par conséquent prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner suite à cette demande de la Sublime Porte, me faire connaître le choix du haut fonctionnaire de finance Anglais qui, de même qu'un financier semblable à désigner par le Gouvernement Français, sera appelé à prêter son concours à l'œuvre de réorganisation financière de la Turquie, et m'informer des conditions auxquelles il consentirait à consacrer ses services au Gouvernement Impérial.

Comme je dois partir dans une semaine pour Constantinople en vertu d'un congé; je serais très-obligé à votre Excellence si elle voulait bien me mettre à même de donner, avant mon départ, à Son Altesse Safvet Pacha, une réponse favorable au vœu exprimé par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Votre très-devoué,
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 451.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

Constantinople, le 25 Août, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Sublime Porte a décidé, conformément aux ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, l'institution d'un Conseil d'Etat Supérieur qui aura pour attributions de préparer la réorganization des finances de l'Empire et d'élaborer a cet effet les lois et règlements nécessaires à l'administration générale des recettes et des dépenses de l'Etat.

Ce Conseil Supérieur sera également chargé d'étudier toutes les questions se rattachant à la Dette Publique, tant intérieure qu'extérieure, et de proposer les plans et combinaisons propres à concilier les nécessités de la situation financière avec les intérêts légitimes des créanciers de l'Etat. Suivant également le vœu formel de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, la Sublime Porte désire que les travaux importants de ce Conseil Supérieur soient éclairés par les lumières d'hommes éminents et expérimentés en matière de finance et jouissant dans leur pays d'une grande notoriété.

A cet effet vous voudrez bien entretenir son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury de cette intention de la Sublime Porte, et le prier de la part du Gouvernement Impérial de nous désigner, parmi les hauts fonctionnaires en activité ou en retraite, celui qui lui semblerait le mieux répondre au but que se propose le Gouvernement Impérial, et qui serait disposé à prêter son concours à l'œuvre de réorganisation financière de la Turquie au sein du Conseil Supérieur qui va être institué à Constantinople. Vous ne laisserez pas ignorer son Excellence le Marquis de Salisbury que nous faisons une démarche identique près du Gouvernement Français, de façon à nous assurer la coopération collective des deux financiers, l'un Anglais et l'autre Français.

Si, comme je l'espère, notre demande est accueillie favorablement, vous nous informerez des conditions auxquelles le haut fonctionnaire désigné par son Gouvernement consentirait à nous consacrer ses services, et vous nous ferez immédiatement connaître le résultat de nos démarches.

No. 452.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 796. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1878.

SAFVET PASHA tells me that Russian Ambassador has informed him that Russian Government is about to send draft of a Treaty of Peace for the acceptance of the Porte which will include all the Articles and Provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano which have not been abrogated by Treaty of Berlin, and will deal with the question of the indemnity to be paid by Turkey to Russia.

No. 453.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 797.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1878.

I HAD a very satisfactory interview this morning with the Sultan. His Majesty expressed his intention of carrying out the reforms to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government, and told me that, on my suggestion, he was about to name Baker Pasha immediately to a command in Asia Minor, and that an Imperial Iradé would be published at once establishing a college of jurisprudence, and providing for a reform of Tribunals. We also discussed some Ministerial changes, and he appeared to be desirous to follow frankly, and with sincerity, a policy acceptable to Her Majesty's Government. He again pleaded the penury of the Treasury as an obstacle to his accomplishing all that we required of him, and entreated me to ask your Lordship to help him to get a loan. He begged me to thank your Lordship and Lord Beaconsfield for the kind expressions that you had used with regard to him in your recent speeches, and to assure you that his earnest wish was to act as a true ally of England and to meet with the approval of your Lordships.

No. 454.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 798.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER tells me that the Austrian Ambassador informed him this morning that he had heard from Vienna that Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs was about to come to an arrangement with the Turkish Plenipotentiary about the Convention.

His Highness has requested Austrian Ambassador to urge upon Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs to stop advance of Austrian troops upon Novi-Bazar. Porte, his Highness says, has succeeded in calming the Albanians, and in preventing them sending a large body of troops into Bosnia as they had intended; but should Austrian army advance upon Novi-Bazar, Porte could no longer restrain them. His Highness earnestly begs your Lordship to use your influence at Vienna to prevent further advance of Austrians.

No. 455.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Prinkipo, August* 27, 1878.

UP to last night 8,000 Russian troops of the Guard have left; there are three transports of different nations litting at Constantinople for the Russians, and one is reported at San Stefano.

No. 456.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)

Berlin, August 28, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH ratifications of the Treaty of Berlin were exchanged to-day at 2 o'clock.

I will send the copy destined for Her Majesty's Government by Saturday's messenger.

No. 457.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, August 28, 1878, 6·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT appears that the withdrawal of a certain number of Russian troops from before Constantinople has taken place. If you think that the retreat of the whole of the army now before that city is really commencing, it would be better that Admiral Hornby should leave his anchorage at Prince's Islands, and go to some other lower down the Sea of Marmora. You will exercise your own discretion, in communication with him, as to the orders to be given.

No. 458.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1016.)

Foreign Office, August 28, 1878.

Sir,

IT would appear from the telegrams received from your Excellency, and from Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, that the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the vicinity of Constantinople has commenced, and that a certain number have actually embarked. If, in your opinion, the retreat of the whole of the army now before the capital is really in progress, it will be desirable that the fleet under Admiral Hornby's command should leave its present anchorage at Prince's Islands and proceed to some station lower down the Sea of Marmora.

I have telegraphed to your Excellency to communicate with the Admiral on this subject, and to use your discretion as to the directions to be given to him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 459.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 731.)

St. Petersburgh, August 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the account given by the "Invalide Russe" of the steps which have been taken for the return and demobilization of the Russian army.

Your Lordship will notice that the movement of the troops with this view commenced on the 13th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 459.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of August 13/25, 1878.

"L'INVALIDE RUSSE" nous apprend que, la guerre étant terminée, les troupes sont mises sur le pied de paix. Dans les parties lointaines de l'Empire, en Sibérie et au Turkestan, les réservistes appelés au service actif sont renvoyés dans leurs foyers. En

vertu d'un Oukase Impérial au Sénat dirigeant, en date du 3 Août, tous les miliciens de la première catégorie, appelés cette année et l'année dernière, sont libérés. Les troupes sédentaires de réserve et de dépôt formées pour le temps de guerre sont également libérées, les troupes de campagne, de forteresse, et les troupes sédentaires à l'intérieur de l'Empire ou revenues déjà des armées actives, sont mises sur le pied de paix. Les militaires de grade inférieur qui ont fini leur temps sont retraités; ceux qui n'ont pas fini leur temps son mis au dépôt; les trains reprennent leurs attelages du temps de paix; les chevaux superflus sont vendus; les effets des troupes renvoyées sont retournés aux dépôts.

Les troupes de l'armée active à leur retour en Russie seront remises sur le pied de paix dans l'ordre indiqué plus haut. Leur transport aura lieu par terre et par mer; les points de débarquement seront Odessa, Sévastopol, et Nikolaïew; de là les troupes suivront trois directions différentes vers leurs quartiers. En même temps que le transport des troupes par mer se fera, par les mêmes vaisseaux à leur voyage de retour, le transport des prisonniers Turcs. Les Cosaques et les autres troupes irrégulières venues du Don, d'Orenbourg, de l'Oural, et du Caucase rentreront dans leurs foyers.

Le mouvement général des troupes sur les chemins de fer a commencé le 3 Août s'après un plan ordonné.

No. 460.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 709.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 28, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul Biliotti, dated to-day:—

"According to private information from Batoum, Youssouf Pasha's exertions and my communication through Armenian friend, have induced Laz to renounce all intention to resist Russian occupation. Number of emigrants unknown, but said to be rather important. Two battalions, twenty field-guns, and five mortars, and numerous military stores arrived here yesterday and day before. Deficiency in transport."

No. 461.

Consul-General White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, August 29, 1878.

ROUMANIAN Government assure me in positive language that whether as regards Jewish disabilities or other questions, they would do all in their power to execute the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 462.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, August 29, 1878.

FRONTIER Commission will at once set to work, Servian Government having named General Leschianin, and Mehemed Ali Pasha Brigadier-General Husni Pasha as their respective Commissioners.

Prince Milan proceeds next Monday to Nisch and Vranja to inspect troops before disbanding majority of them, and also to facilitate labours of Commission, although no serious difficulties are apprehended; but the presence of 5,000 Albanian irregulars at Pristina, who for the last three months have engaged in occasional forays across the frontier, is a constant source of alarm and danger.

Above telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 463.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)

Belgrade, August 20, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

ACCORDING to French Military Attaché just arrived from Serajevo, the Austrian army is admirably organized and equipped, and abundantly supplied, but operations are suspended pending arrival of several fresh divisions, in order to avoid possibility of advance being again checked.

Austrian accounts of the fighting greatly exaggerated, defence having been far from vigorous.

Great exasperation exists in the Austrian camp against Servia. As far as it is possible to ascertain, the Servian Government has given no cause whatever of complaint.

No. 464.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1878, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 791, please let me know who will be on the proposed Financial Commission besides the Frenchman.

Also give me if you can, approximately, at least, the order of reference.

No. 465.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1878, 3·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ASK whether French Government have received an application for Commissioner to examine into Turkish finances, and if so, what course they propose to take.

No. 466.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.

(No. 1020.)

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 791 of the 26th instant, stating that the Grand Vizier has instructed the Turkish Ambassadors here and at Paris to apply to Her Majesty's Government and to that of France for the services of an able and experienced financier of each country, to form part of a Commission which is to be appointed by the Porte for the organization of the finances of the Empire.

I have telegraphed to your Excellency to request that you will, if possible, ascertain and let me know who the other members of the Commission will be, and also, approximately at least, the intended order of reference, fixing its powers and duties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 467.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.

(No. 547.)

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that instructions have been sent to the Turkish Ambassadors at London and Paris to apply to the Governments to which they are respectively accredited for an able and experienced financier, to take part in the Commission of Inquiry into Turkish Finance

which the Porte propose to appoint, and I have to request you to inquire whether any such application has been received by the French Government; and, if so, what course they propose to take in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 468.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.

(No. 548.)

Sir,

I HAVE received Lord Lyons' despatch No. 650 of the 17th instant, reporting the language held to his Excellency by M. Waddington in regard to the statement said to have been made by M. Fournier both at Constantinople and Athens respecting the visit of the French squadron to Greece.

It appears from Lord Lyons' despatch that M. Waddington distinctly states, not only that the French Ambassador had no authority from his Government to affirm that the visit of the French fleet to Greek waters was a demonstration in favour of Greece as against Turkey, but that he had systematically declined to make any declarations as to what the conduct of France would be in hypothetical cases as regards the relations of Turkey towards Greece.

I have now to observe that Her Majesty's Government, like that of France, have declined to bind themselves to any action in the hypothetical case referred to; and, although it was undoubtedly true that before the Congress Her Majesty's Government intimated to the Porte that naval action against Greece could not then be permitted, they have never intimated any decision to maintain such a prohibition for the future.

You are at liberty to speak in this sense to M. Waddington when occasion offers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 469.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Adams.

Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.

(No. 549.)

Sir,

IN your despatch No. 659 of the 20th instant, you inclose a copy of a note addressed by M. Waddington to Lord Lyons, referring to the desire expressed by Her Majesty's Government to ascertain the views of that of France in regard to the formation and meeting of the various Commissions provided for by the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Waddington's note, after replying on the above subject, refers to the suggestion of the Russian Government that in the work of delimitation there should be unanimity in the resolutions, with the proviso that, in case of disagreement, reference should be made to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers at Constantinople; and M. Waddington raises the question whether the majority of the Commissioners might not have the power of decision amongst themselves.

On this point I have to state that Her Majesty's Government agree with that of France in thinking that decision by majority, at all events in respect to points of detail, presents the only prospect of a speedy issue to the deliberations of the Commission.

A proposal to this effect was, however, made by the British Plenipotentiaries at Berlin with respect to the Bulgarian Commission, and was resolutely resisted by the Russian Plenipotentiaries. It is not probable, therefore, that Russia will concede the point.

In case the nine months of Russian occupation should elapse before any decision has been taken by the Commission, Her Majesty's Government assume that the

ad interim Government will be exercised by the Porte; but they would be glad to know whether this is also the view of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 470.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 458.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.*

Sir,

IN my despatch No. 449 of the 21st instant, I forwarded to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing copies of Reports from Mr. Consul Reade, at Varna, as to the cruel treatment which the Mussulman refugees, who are returning to their homes in Bulgaria, are suffering at the hands of the Russian authorities and of the Bulgarian population.

I now forward to you a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Reade on the same subject.

I must request you at once to bring the facts mentioned in these despatches to the knowledge of M. de Giers, and to express a hope on the part of Her Majesty's Government that measures will be taken to ensure that these unfortunate people shall receive protection and humane treatment from the Russian authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 471.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 459.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing a Report from Mr. Consul-General Fawcett of the proceedings of the European Commission sent to the Rhodope Mountains and surrounding districts to inquire into the condition of the Mussulman fugitives. At the close of Mr. Fawcett's despatch you will find an account of an attack made by Russian soldiers on some of the inhabitants of a Turkish village within a small distance of the place where the Commission was at the time holding its sitting.

You will state the facts thus reported to M. de Giers, and express the great concern with which Her Majesty's Government have heard of an outrage committed on a part of the population inoffensively employed, while the Commission in which Russia is represented, and which is intended to devise measures for their relief, was actually sitting in the vicinity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 472.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 466.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1878.*

Sir,

I APPROVE the language reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 587 of the 10th instant, in which you urged upon Baron Orczy the importance of moderation on the part of the Austrian military authorities in Bosnia towards the insurgents who might fall into their hands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 473.

Mr. Abbott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Tabreez, July 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the periodical disturbances on the Turco-Persian frontier have commenced.

I am informed that Sadon, a member of the Shekkak tribe—nominally under the allegiance of the Shah of Persia—who went some time ago into Turkish territory, and placed himself under the protection of the notorious Sheikh Obeidoollah, returned recently to Persia with a band of Kurds, and plundered a village near Barandouz belonging to Hajee Rahim Khan, Serkedar of the Afshars; but that he has been captured, and is now in prison at Oroolmiah.

A son of Sheikh Obeidoollah, with upwards of 1,000 horse and foot men—I think the numbers must be exaggerated—is also reported to have devastated villages in the Barandouz district, causing the death of ten villagers, after which he returned to the Sheikh's stronghold near Nochea, in Turkish territory.

The Persian authorities have complained to my Turkish colleague of these alleged outrages, and the matter has, I understand, been referred for arrangement to Tehran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 474.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 98. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August 9, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour to transmit to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram, in consequence of a private letter which I have received from a reliable source from Batoum:—

"Private reliable letter of 2nd instant just received from Batoum states that Beys and inhabitants of all classes seem unanimous in objecting to Russian occupation. 20,000 fighting men are reckoned upon; large force already sent to Tsolooksoo, where council was being held, on 2nd, by all leaders, to decide on plan of action. Something formidable is expected to occur. Turkish Commanders and troops abstain from any manifestation."

I transcribe in extenso, for your Lordship's full information, the letter in question, which contains interesting details not embodied in my telegram.

"The situation seems to me a complicated and critical one. About twenty Turkish battalions occupy the town and surrounding districts; a wooden frigate and an iron-clad are anchored close in shore. Two batteries of field artillery are stationed in the town; sixty fresh artillery horses have come here by steamer five days ago.

"The local Beys and inhabitants of every degree seem unanimous in objecting to a Russian occupation. They reckon on being able to put 20,000 men in the field. A large force has already been sent in the direction of the Poti frontier, and to-day all the local leaders are assembled at Tsolooksoo in council, to decide on a general plan of action. I believe that something formidable is about to occur.

"The Turkish Commanders and regular troops abstain carefully from any manifestation whatever, and I have little doubt that they will, if Russia presses the execution of the Treaty, at once obey an order from Constantinople to evacuate the town.

"The defences of the town are insignificant. There are only two redoubts, mounting each half-a-dozen 12-centimetre Krupps close to the sea-shore. On the heights, in close proximity to the town, four battalions of regulars and Zeibecks are camped. Of Zeibecks there are altogether three battalions, amounting to a force of some 3,000 men."

I may agree with the opinion of my correspondent that the regular troops will obey orders to evacuate Batoum, if these orders are given and carried out before hostilities break out; but I cannot help thinking that should a strife begin, while the

troops are there, their commanders will be unable to prevent their joining the Laz in great numbers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 475.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 30.*)

(No. 99. Political.) *Trebizond, August 9, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE just forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"Received from Laz, for transmission, Address, stating that their previous ones having remained unanswered, they must suppose that their contents have been taken into consideration. Russians having, some time ago, retreated on Laz having marched against them, no fight took place; but if they advance one step from present positions Laz, who, armed and unarmed, number 60,000 men, will unfurl British flag and open fire. They consider themselves under British protection, and beg for an answer."

I have the honour to inclose copy and translation of the above-mentioned Address from the Laz, and to inform your Lordship that the latter, I am assured by passengers from the Laz, and to inform your Lordship that the latter, I am assured by passengers arrived this day from Batoum, have five large English flags, and also French flags, which it is their intention to display the moment they enter in action. Of their decision of doing so, if the Russians cross the frontier, no one here doubts.

I should think that, if the taking possession of Batoum is postponed, time, money, and promises of remunerative employment, or of honorary distinctions on the part of the Russian Government, may cool down the present excitement and prevent useless effusion of blood. But if the surrender of the Lazistan is to take place within a short period, it would be an act of humanity to offer the Laz the means of emigration and settlement in other parts of the Empire, as it was done for other races—Circassians, Abazians—who deserved the favour less than the Laz, and had not the same claims as they have to the consideration of the Ottoman Government. In case the latter decline to avail themselves of the means placed at their disposal for emigrating no one but themselves could be held responsible for the regrettable consequences which may follow their refusal.

It is believed here that the Porte, although appearing openly to do all in its power to smooth all difficulties for the surrender of Batoum, would not be sorry to see a strife between the Russians and the Laz, in the hope that it may lead to the abortion of the decision taken by the Congress. That is, at all events, the earnest wish of the Mussulmans in this part of Anatolia. But the Laz mistrust Dervish Pasha, who, they think, is bent on rendering impossible all resistance on their part.

However, although there is a very abundant supply of provisions at Batoum, a Government transport is continually carrying provisions there, and has again left yesterday for Samsoon to embark a further supply, which may be rightly considered as not needed by the troops, whose stay there can only be of short duration.

The port of Batoum can be taken possession of by the Russians without any serious resistance being offered by the Laz, but the latter can carry on for a very long period a guerilla warfare in their inaccessible mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 475.

Address.

(Translation.)

To Lord Beaconsfield, the Marquis of Salisbury, both Houses of Parliament, and the Lord Mayor, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

WE, 200,000 Mussulmans inhabiting Batoum and the surrounding country, see in the papers that, in spite of their having been victorious and able to defend their territory, Batoum is to be given over to Russia.

The Government which, amongst all others in the present century, treats with

justice the populations under its authority is the British, which rules over millions of Mussulmans in India, and is also the protector of all other Mussulmans. We have, therefore, placed ourselves under its auspices to be protected and saved from Russian tyranny.

The Congress which was proposed by Great Britain has, against all justice and humanity, placed us, the 200,000 inhabitants of Batoum, under the sword of Russia.

We cannot believe that, in its own interest and for other motives, the British Government will sanction the decision arrived at by the Congress.

The numerous addresses which we have already forwarded to England having remained without answer, we must suppose that they have been taken into consideration, it being inadmissible that, unless it is so, petitions addressed by oppressed populations on the justice of their claims to a Government can be left without official answer.

However, in the absence of such answer our anxiety has augmented since a few days, owing to the Russian forces preparing to advance on the Tsolooksoo, and we being decided to fight to the last before allowing the Russians to set their foot on our territory.

The Russians having advanced some time ago on the Tsolooksoo and Adjara, we marched against them, but could not fight, they having retreated.

If they advance one step from their present positions we will, with the help of God, and in displaying the British flag, open fire on them.

We are now 60,000 men, with and without arms, occupying positions from which we watch the movements of the Russians; and, as we have already mentioned it in our previous Address, considering ourselves to be under British protection, we will die under the British flag.

We earnestly beg for an answer.

July 25
August 6, 1878.

(Follow 11 signatures of Delegates of the Populations.)

No. 476.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 30.*)

(No. 1028.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 16, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA has shown me a letter, of which I inclose a copy, to the Governor of Drama, addressed by Mr. St. Clair, calling himself Hidayet Pasha or Bey, who is at the head of the rising of the Mussulmans in the Mount Rhodope districts. It will show your Lordship the mischief that may be apprehended from this movement, which I pointed out in my despatch No. 954 of the 27th July.

Safvet Pasha asked me what was to be done. I advised him to endeavour to re-establish the authority of the Sultan without loss of time over the population now under arms, as otherwise there would be a very serious risk of fresh complications arising with the Russians, or of the armed bands organized by Mr. St. Clair taking to brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 476.

Hidayet Pasha to the Mutessarif of Drama.

Excellence, *Quartier-Général de Gabrova, le 27 Juillet, 1878.*

MOGHATUN BEY m'a écrit qu'il avait eu plusieurs conventions (conversations ?) avec vous et vous disait très-favorable à notre cause. Il m'avait même dit que vous avez promis aide et secours. Said Effendi, qui vous avez nommé Général de Division, m'a dit, au contraire, pis que pendre de votre Excellence, et d'autres nominations fort malheureuses de votre part, me force à vouloir avoir une explication claire et nette avec vous. Je ne doute pas du patriotisme de votre Excellence, mais ceci dont je doute c'est la sûreté des vues de votre Excellence à l'égard de la situation. Il est certain que la position de votre Excellence est une des plus délicates et des plus

normales ; elle est presqu'aussi difficile et aussi dangereuse que celle de la Sublime Porte elle-même.

Si nous doutions du patriotisme et des talents politiques de votre Excellence notre devoir serait de marcher sur Drama, et de forcer votre Excellence de venir le Gouvernement entre les mains d'un homme nommé par moi ou par les voix du peuple Musulman, mais je préfère m'adresser à votre sain jugement, et à votre dévouement à votre Maître notre Sultan, et vous engager à faire cause commune avec nous. Comprenez bien ceci, Excellence, la Russie a trompé l'Europe, et l'Europe trahit la Turquie aujourd'hui. La Sublime Porte sans aucun pouvoir de résistance est à la merci de la flotte Anglaise d'un côté, et de l'armée Russe de l'autre, tremblant pour la capitale. Le Grand Vizir est obligé de ne point songer à nous, et de nous sacrifier pour la tranquillité de la capitale. Donc les ordres de la Porte reçus à Drama ne peuvent point être considérés comme les vœux réels du Sultan et du Grand Vizir. D'un autre côté ce pays-ci, formant partie de la Nord Bulgarie d'après le Traité de San Stéphano et de la Roumélie par les décisions du Congrès, l'autorité du Mutessarif de Drama est interloque, et du fait vous n'êtes qu'un fonctionnaire que le hasard de la guerre, ou plutôt la clémence des insurgés, a laissé à son poste, et à moins que vous ne fussiez un fonctionnaire reconnu du Gouvernement de la Nord Bulgarie, et alors nous, qui ne voulons entendre parler d'aucune Bulgarie, serons forcés d'agir contre vous

Où vont les revenus du Sandjak de Drama à Constantinople ou à Philippopoli, capitale de la Bulgarie ? Si ces revenus vont même à Constantinople, ne seront-ils pas versés au trésor Nord Bulgare. Mais cela est certain. Donc, tout en obéissant noir matériel à la Sublime Porte vous êtes du fait un fonctionnaire Bulgare, et dans d'autres termes, vous servez la Russie contre le Sultan sans le savoir. Or, je suppose que votre Excellence étant loyal sujet du Sultan, et ayant le bonheur d'être Musulman, donnerait sa vie et son tout pour servir son Maître et sa foi.

S'il est ainsi il faut choisir entre l'obéissance aux ordres donnés par la Sublime Porte et ceux que je vous donne ou nom de la foi, du peuple, et de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Or, mes ordres sont :—

1. Désarmer le Cérnaveau d'Alaga Tchétété et ramener à sa place le Hadji Moufti Effendi de Nida-Bachoté.

2. Eloigner Reshid Effendi.

3. Donner l'ordre directement à toutes les troupes de n'obéir qu'à moi ou à mon délégué.

4. Déclarer à la Commission Européenne que vous n'avez aucune pouvoir sur les insurgés ni sur le peuple, ni sur qui que ce soit; que vous ne gouvernez que par la tolérance des insurgés.

Si votre Excellence le fait, elle sert le pays et service la cause de la nation, aussi bien que le Trône de Sa Majesté. Si non, vous trahissez notre Seigneur le Sultan et votre foi, et alors, Excellence, j'aurai à agir contre vous. Sachez, Excellence, que je suis ici plus que vous ne pensez ; que je suis l'homme attendu de tous, le bras du Maître tout en étant

Votre tout dévoué,
(Signé) HIDAYET PACHA.

P.S.—Que signifie l'échelonnement des volontaires le long de l'Arda dans les endroits où elle ne fait pas frontière ? Envoyez-moi ces troupes ou dissolvez-les.

J'ajoute encore que grâce à mes relations avec le Palais je peux assurer à votre Excellence que la désobéissance apparente aux ordres officiels de la Sublime Porte en sera complétement récompensée.

No. 477.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1029.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 16, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY called upon me this morning, having come from an interview with Safvet Pasha, to whom he had read a long telegram from Count Andrassy, dated yesterday, which he was good enough to communicate to me. The Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, after making various complaints against the Porte on account of the hostile attitude of the Turkish authorities in Bosnia, of the entry of armed soldiers and Albanians from the adjoining province, and of other matters, instructs the Ambassador to inform the Grand Vizier that the time is now come for the Porte to decide upon taking one of two courses: either to retain Bosnia and Herzegovina by permitting Austria to occupy and administer them as a friend, or to run the risk of being deprived of them, and perhaps of other provinces, by conquest.

Count Zichy is instructed to demand an immediate and categorical answer to this question of the Grand Vizier. His Excellency stated to me that Safvet Pasha, of whose endeavours to bring this question to a satisfactory conclusion he spoke in warm terms, promised to have Count Andrassy's telegram translated at once into Turkish, and to communicate it this afternoon to the Sultan. His Highness expressed his hope that he would be able to give an answer to it to-morrow morning.

Count Zichy informed me that Safvet Pasha had shown him a telegram from the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, who stated that Despotovich had called upon him, and had proposed to him to unite with Turkey in opposing the occupation of Bosnia by Austria. Despotovich stated that he was well supplied with money, and that he would be able to avail himself of other means, which he does not appear to have specified, to cause serious trouble to Austria if she persisted in her attempt to take possession of that province. His Highness said that he had at once sent instructions to Shakir Pasha not to have anything to do with this mischievous intrigue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 478.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1031.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 16, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 953 of the 27th ultimo, Count Zichy informs me that the United States' Government has refused to agree to the temporary addition of 2 per cent. to the Customs duties of Constantinople to form a fund for the removal and relief of the Mussulman fugitives, and that the German Government having returned no answer to the renewed request of its Chargé d'Affaires for instructions on the subject, may also be presumed to decline to sanction it. Such being the case there is no prospect of the proposed arrangement being carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 479.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1034.)
My Lord,
Therapia, August 16, 1878.

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's two telegrams of yesterday evening, transmitting to me telegrams from Sir Henry Elliot relating to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia. As I was unable, on account of an engagement, to call myself on Safvet Pasha, I sent Mr. Sandison at once to communicate their substance to his Highness. Sir Henry Elliot states that the Austrian Government were informed that the Turkish authorities have allowed well-armed bands to proceed from Uskup and other places to Bosnia to join the insurgents, and that, although instructions had been sent to Hafiz Pasha at Bosna-Serai that the Austrians were to be received as friends, he was under the influence of the insurgents. His instructions should, accordingly, be made known to the other Turkish authorities at Bosna-Serai, as well as in other places of importance. The Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs had said that if things continued as they were at present, and the Imperial troops had to enter Bosna-Serai as enemies, he would not engage that they might not go further than was at first intended. No time should, therefore, be lost if the Porte wished to obtain the friendship of Austria. Count Andrassy had further stated to Sir Henry Elliot that, until the Porte concludes a Convention respecting the Austrian occupation, he could not consent to give a

guarantee to Turkey against an attack from Servia or Montenegro; but that he would be ready to do so by an official note as soon as a Convention had been agreed upon.

The Grand Vizier declared emphatically that the Porte had no knowledge whatever of the passage of armed bands from Uskup and other places into Bosnia. His Highness stated that stringent orders had been sent to the Governor-General of Kossova, which would be repeated to-day, to prevent by every possible means in his power the participation of the Albanians in the resistance offered by the Bosnians to the Austrian occupation, and that the reports received from that vilayet have so far fully confirmed the successful attempts made by the authorities in preserving the neutrality of the Albanians. His Highness admitted that 300 soldiers, probably belonging to the garrison of Sienitza, might have passed into Bosnia, the Turkish authorities not being able to stop them.

Safvet Pasha, at the suggestion of Mr. Sandison, agreed to communicate at once the instructions sent to Hafiz Pasha, enjoining a pacific attitude towards the Austrian occupation, in the form of a circular, to all the other authorities in Bosnia. His Highness said, with reference to Count Andrassy's observation that Austria might be compelled to go further than she first intended if she had to enter Bosna-Serai as an enemy, that Turkey would have to deplore deeply such an eventuality, and he trusted that Austria would not overstep the limits assigned by the Congress to her occupation of the province.

The Grand Vizier further said that he hoped that the last instructions sent to Cleathéodori Pasha to conclude the Convention had reached him in time, as Count Andrassy appeared to have stated that it would be "quite useless" to conclude it subsequent to the entry of the Austrian troops into Bosna-Serai, although he had previously observed that their passage into Bosnia would not interfere with the conclusion of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 480.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 61. Consular.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1878.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Report from Dr. Dickson on the state of public health in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 480.

Dr. Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, August 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the public health has continued to improve during the last fortnight; and the health of the refugees no longer requiring any special attention, the Board of Health has dispensed with the services of the three Medical Inspectors (Drs. Gabuzzi, Mordtmann, and Stekoulis) appointed to visit and report on the condition of these immigrants. Many of the refugees are daily quitting this place, and a fresh batch of them has just arrived from Varna.

A rumour had lately reached the Board of an epidemic outbreak at Kermanshah, in Persia; but Dr. Charles Millingen, the Ottoman Sanitary Delegate at Tehran, telegraphed, on the 8th instant, that no suspicious malady existed there; but that diarrhœa prevailed, and was often fatal to young children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 481.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 1037.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, inclosing copy of a letter from M. Kypriotis, relative to the work performed by the various Beys and Agas at Janina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 481.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, August* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of M. Kypriotis' despatch of the 6th instant, relative to the work performed by the various Beys and Agas who, as I reported to your Excellency in a previous despatch, had been invited to proceed to Janina. M. Kypriotis also gives a short account of the state of public security in that neighbourhood.

The Circassians left for Janina a few days ago, and I hear that two battalions from Arta have also proceeded thither. As I am referring to the troops that have recently arrived here from Constantinople, I think it but just to add that their behaviour has been, and continues to be, all that can be desired.

Vessel Bey has returned to Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 481.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Janina, August* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the various Beys and Agas who have been invited to come to Janina have, together with the leading Mussulmans of this place, signed a petition, in which they beg the Porte to form Albania and North and South Epirus into one or two vilayets, and not to allow foreign policy to interfere with the government of these districts, and, lastly, that no part of their territory should be cut off and ceded to Greece; and they give notice that, should the contrary be effected, they will repel the foreign Governments by force of arms, and that they will fight for their land even without the assistance of Government. In the meantime the bands of Albanian brigands are becoming stronger and more numerous every day, and vie with the bands of insurgents which for a long time past are scattered over this district in the capture of prisoners, in incendiarism and murder, and in every sort of oppression; they have even extended their acts of depredation to the very Lake of Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 482.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 1039.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, inclosing a copy of Mr. Longworth's Report of the condition of Thessaly, and of a note from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs to Photiades Bey.

I have also the honour to transmit translation of the Circular addressed to the

authorities in the canton and district at the recommendation of Mr. Blunt, and mentioned in his despatch of the 8th August, which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1024 of the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 482.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, August 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report from Mr. Longworth, dated the 21st ultimo, upon the present condition of the district of Pharsala (Tchataldja) and the sub-district of Domoco.

Mr. Longworth furnishes some information upon the recent destructive fires in those districts; and also refers to the insufficiency of the instructions sent to the local authorities regarding the remission of one year's taxes to the inhabitants of the villages and farms whose houses have been burned or destroyed during the late insurrection.

In my telegram to your Excellency, dated from Larissa, 3rd May, 1878, I proposed among other conditions for the pacification of Thessaly, "one year's remission of taxes to burnt Christian and Mahommedan villages and farms;" and in the despatch which Mr. Consul Merlin and I addressed to your Excellency from Volo on the 6th of the same month, we report as follows upon this special condition:—

"With reference to the remission of the taxes, the sacrifice on the part of the Ottoman Government will not be so great: first, because, in consequence of the absence of the families, the land has remained uncultivated; and, secondly, because the measure only applies to the villages and farms which have suffered from the insurrection, the number which have so suffered being less considerably than has been represented."

I may also add that the Porte in its note of the 14th May last to the Ottoman Minister at Athens, which was communicated to the Greek Government, and by the latter to the Greek Consuls in Thessaly and Epirus, does not refer to any particular tax, but to all in general.

This note, of which I inclose a copy as furnished to me by the Greek Consul here, shows that the Porte understood the condition in question in the sense proposed by Mr. Merlin and myself, for it confirms in the following terms our view of that condition:—

"5. Rémission des impôts pour la durée d'une année en faveur des villages et fermes tant Musulmans que Chrétiens situés dans les localités insurgées et qui auraient été endommagés."

Although the Mutessarif Said Pasha understands the intention of his Government in the sense which I have expressed, he does not feel authorized by the tenor of his instructions to act upon them to that effect. He has more than once applied to the Porte and to the Governor-General of Epirus for definite directions on the subjects, but has not yet received them; and as I have recently received various complaints in this connexion from the villages which have more or less suffered, of which I inclose one from the village of Rapsani, I deem it my duty to again bring the matter under the notice of your Excellency, in the hope that your Excellency will urge the Porte not to delay furnishing the authorities in Thessaly and Epirus with full power to carry out in a liberal sense the condition in question as proposed by Mr. Consul Merlin and myself, for the faithful execution of which I feel myself morally pledged, by my having assured the Turkish and Christian villagers that it was sanctioned by the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 482.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Pharsála, July* 21, 1878.

I BEG to furnish you the following Report upon the district or caza of Pharsala and its dependency, or "Nahiyeh" of Domoco.

The information it contains is derived, with complete impartiality, from the more trustworthy and prominent members of the Greek and Turkish communities.

The number of murders perpetrated during the insurrection in the Kaïmacamlik of Pharsala and Mudirlik of Domoco are contained in the following table:—

Month	Locality.	Victims.	Remarks.
Domoco— 1878:			
February	Comenoynani ..	4 Greeks	Killed by Turks.
March	Petra	2 „	„ „
April	Vellissiotti	1 „	By whom unknown.
„	Vardeli	2 „	Shot by Ghegas.
May	Vrontoneri	1 Wallach	By whom unknown.
Pharsala— 1878:			
January	Shegli	1 Greek	Killed by Albanians.
March	Semekli	1	Killed by Ghegas.

The only case of assassination committed this year on Mahommedans is that of four Circassians killed near Domoco during the earlier part of this month. Major-General Hassan Pasha tried in vain to discover the authors of this crime. In his eagerness to arrive at the truth, he imprisoned four of the principal Christians of the village of Vellissiotti.

The evidence used against them was that they wholly ignored the matter, although their village is only a mile or two from the scene of the murder, and their sheep and cattle grazing out are watered at that very spot. Whilst at Domoco I proposed, and Hassan Pasha consented, to visit together the locality. The result of this was the release of the prisoners; firstly, because we found that two days previous to the murder the shepherds of the village had abandoned those grounds owing to the pasturage having been burned; secondly, because the report of fire-arms did not necessarily reach the village, as the sound may have been arrested by the eminence that stands between, or driven beyond by a counter wind, or even suppressed by the heat of the day.

The Circassians were in all probability put to death by the followers of the Olympian brigand chief Calogheros, who was seen to pass by that day for the district of Tricalla at the head of a large insurrectionary band.

The following are the numbers of villages and houses burned in the district of Pharsala during the insurrection. With the exception of the last, all the villages are Mahommedan:—

Name.	Previous Number of Houses.	Number of Houses Burnt.	Remarks.
Davakli	35	24	Burned principally by a tribe of Greek shepherds, called "Saralatchans," inhabiting the frontier-mountains.
Catchuli	45	20	
Karadjali	25	15	
Tirnovishi	12	4	
Barova	10	3	
Tchutnia	40	16	
Kitiki	8	2	
Kirlar	28	18	
Charkerli	30	15	
Cabakchushi	22	12	
Kopekli	30	6	
Anabakli	16	6	
[illegible]	15	7	Burned by Turks.
13 villages	356	149	

The number and names of the villages burned in the Nahiyeh of Domoco are as follows :—

Christian.—1, Mandassia; 2, Alifica; 3, Drahani; 4, Yarakli; 5, Villissiottis; 6, Ombriaki; 7, Pouranri; 8, Scarnitza; 9, Sathro; and 10, Alkani.

Mahommedan.—1, Pashali; 2, Hilatho; and 3, Ithomoli.

Owing to the interruption of relationship between Domoco and these villages, it has been impossible to ascertain the number of their houses burned. The list furnished by the local authorities contains such information, but it is of a kind so exaggerated and contradictory that I refrained from making any use of it.

The number of sheep, goats, and cattle carried off from the villages of Domoco, though unknown, are supposed to exceed those stolen from the district of Pharsala. The latter are roughly estimated at 750 heads of cattle, and 8,000 sheep and goats.

As yet only a very few of these had been recovered, for although Commissions for the restitution of stolen property have been formed both at Pharsala and Domoco, yet their inertness is so great that no restoration of property has been due to their exertions.

A gradual return of the refugees to their homes has been going on here in a desultory manner. In fact, they seem to come and go as they please, and to have made a home on both sides of the frontier.

Of 800 families that had entered Greece, only some members of about 300 have returned to Turkey, and are once more in pursuit of their ordinary calling.

The Christian population, as a whole, I find, are now less passive in their loyalty to the Sultan. They display much more openly their dislike and distrust of the Ottoman rule than they did during my winter visit.

Besides, now the authorities are unable to keep up, excepting in the towns of Pharsala and Domoco, more than a nominal control over the people.

The villages of Domoco are in a more unsettled state than those of Pharsala, which is due, I am told, to the vicinity of the Agrapha Mountains, where complete anarchy prevails.

Cattle stealing, acts of brigandage, and incendious depredations have become of frequent occurrence in these parts. Large flocks are carried off at a time by the disaffected Greeks of Agrapha, and by the nomadic shepherds of the frontier mountains.

Travelling has become quite dangerous from bands of highway robbers. Latterly, the only son of Cambari, of the village "Hadji Bey," has been seized as hostage.

The brigands were eighty Albanian deserters from the Turkish frontier guards. The father has not since heard of his son, and is suffering much from grief and apprehension.

Great fires are daily raging in the plains. Nearly the whole of this year's harvest has already been destroyed.

It has been impossible to find out with anything like certainty whether these fires are due to Christian or Mahommedan carelessness, spirit of mischief, or malice.

Until now the crops of the following villages had been burned. They are all estates tenanted by Christians, except the Circassian village of Balabanli :—

Those of Pharsala are :—Puzanki, Demirli, Hadjimarli, and Catohanna.

Those of Domoco are :—Balabanli, Joba, Ambellia, Vellissiotti, Aghoriani, and the village of Lefka, with all its buildings.

The remission of one year's taxes promised by the Porte to the inhabitants of the Turkish and Christian villages, the houses of whom have been destroyed during the insurrection, does not appear to be clearly defined in the instructions sent on the subject of the amnesty to the authorities of Pharsala and Domoco, for the tithe is as usual claimed by them from all the villages without exception.

There is a battalion of regular troops encamped now at Pharsala consisting of 400 men. At Domoco the garrison contains four battalions of infantry under Major-General Hassan Pasha. They number nearly 2,000 men, a force very inadequate for the defence of a place with such extensive works.

Domoco is a strategic position of the greatest importance, and as it is situated near Lamina it will probably become, if, in the event of hostilities, it is yielded up to Greece, the basis of Greek military operations in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 482.

M. Delyanni to Photiades Bey.

Constantinople, le 14 Mai, 1878.

L'INSURRECTION dans le Vilayet de Janina ayant cessé, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de décréter les dispositions suivantes :—

1. Une amnestie sans conditions et un délai de vingt jours à partir de la date de sa promulgation sont accordés aux insurgés, afin de permettre à toutes les bandes de rentrer chez elles.

2. Retrait de toutes les troupes irrégulières Ottomanes du Vilayet de Janina ; du reste, toutes ces troupes ont déjà été retirées.

3. Défense absolue aux habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans des localités insurgées de porter des armes.

4. Mise en liberté immédiate des prisonniers directement ou indirectement impliqués dans la révolte ; et remise de ceux appartenant à la nationalité Hellénique au Consul de Grèce pour être rapatriés. Les insurgés se refusant à rentrer chez eux dans le délai fixé devront être traités en proscrits.

5. Rémission des impôts pour la durée d'une année en faveur des villages tant Musulmans que Chrétiens situés dans les localités insurgées et qui auraient été endommagés.

6. Facilités à être accordées par le Gouvernement Ottoman avec le concours du Gouvernement Hellénique pour la découverte et la restitution du bétail et autres biens enlevés aux habitants. Nous espérons que ces mesures assureront le maintain de l'ordre et de la tranquillité rétablis, et nous remercions le Gouvernement Hellénique d'avoir bien voulu contribuer à ce résultat.

Quant aux débris de bandes qui restent dans le vilayet les autorités Helléniques nous prêteront, conformément à la Convention de 1865, leur concours efficace pour l'extirpation de ces bandits.

Inclosure 4 in No. 482.

The Inhabitants of Rapsani to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.)

Très-honorable Consul, *Rapsani, le 4 Août*, 1878.

LES humbles Soussignés, Chefs de la communauté du village de Rapsani, ont l'honneur de vous soumettre ce qui suit au nom de tous ses malheureux habitants :—

En premier lieu, très-honorable Monsieur, les Soussignés vous prient d'agréer leurs vifs remercîments pour l'empressement que vous avez plus d'une fois témoigné pour assister et soulager leur village.

En vérité, grâce à vos soins et aux mesures que vous avez recommandé, le village de Rapsani a été délivré de la présence des troupes soit irrégulières soit régulières, et ses habitants jouissent de la tranquillité ; et les Soussignés espèrent que vous continuerez à leur accorder votre puissant appui. En outre, les Soussignés vous prient obligeamment de vouloir assister le village au sujet du prélèvement de la dîme. Les Soussignés avaient déjà prié les autorités de Larisse de vouloir venir à l'aide des pauvres familles du village qui mouraient de faim, et malgré les promesses données, aucun résultat pratique n'a été jusqu'ici obtenu.

Maintenant les habitants voient avec douleur des employés venir au village pour réclamer la dîme sur la petite quantité des céréales qu'ils ont récoltés. Les Soussignés pensent que cette mesure est contraire aux promesses données par le Gouvernement, contraire même aux ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, par lesquels la rémission de tous les impôts en général est accordée aux villages qui furent détruits.

En conséquence pour cette affaire aussi les Soussignés ont l'honneur de réclamer en faveur des habitants votre appui philanthropique et protection efficace ; et ils se signent, &c.

La Communauté de Rapsani,

(Signé) J. B. PAPPADOPOLO.
GIORGHOS THEODORO.
ANTONIOS ANASTASSIO.
YANNAKI VASSILIO.
STERIO HRESSAFIO.
ATHANASSIO IPSARA.
ZAFIRI PAPPA VASSILI.

Inclosure 5 in No. 482.

Circular addressed to Authorities in Cantons and Districts.

(Traduction.)

Dans notre dépêche circulaire, transmise en marge de la copie d'un télégramme du Ministre de la Guerre à l'adresse du Gouverneur-Général, ayant rapport à la mesure de faire venir au chef-lieu du district les familles de ceux parmi les indigènes Chrétiens qui étaient actuellement en révolte, nous vous avions recommandés de faire à cet égard ce qui est nécessaire. Il paraît cependant qu'il y a eu des tentatives, sous ce prétexte, de vouloir appliquer la mesure en question aux familles de ceux qui, étant précédemment en révolte, obtinrent ensuite l'amnistie, et s'occupent maintenant de leurs affaires. Il est évident qu'un tel procédé est contraire aux dispositions de l'iradé de l'amnistie, et il est en même temps de nature à provoquer l'abus, attendu que l'ordre ci-dessus mentionné ne concerne que les familles de ceux qui sont actuellement en révolte, et non pas de ceux qui ont obtenu l'amnistie.

Il est, par conséquent, indispensable de bien se rendre compte du sens de l'ordre donné de faire des investigations par rapport à ceux qui sont réputés être actuellement en révolte, de s'addresser à cet effet aux Moukhtars et notables des villages, et d'en obtenir des rapports portant leur sceaux et servant de base à la mesure de faire venir les familles de qui de droit au chef-lieu du casa.

Ainsi, veuillez agir en conséquence et ayez soin d'empêcher tout acte ou procédé contraire au sus dit ordre supérieur.

Le 28 Juillet, 1878.

No. 483.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 1040.)

Therapia, August 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Calvert, giving an account of the enrolment of Bulgarians and of arbitrary proceedings on the part of the Russians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 483.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 8, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency that Hadji Arif Agha, the most influential Turkish notable, and, until latterly, one of the wealthiest inhabitants of Philippopolis, was yesterday summarily arrested and thrown into prison by the Russo-Bulgarian police. In spite of his age (he is over 70), he has been thrust into the foulest and darkest dungeon—the one reserved for murderers and highwaymen. No reason is given for his arrest. His sons and other relatives are refused access to him, and are not even allowed to send him food, clothing, or any such luxury to mitigate the wretchedness of his position. With nothing but bread and water for his fare, and only straw to lie upon, it is not likely that the strength of the poor old man will be sufficient to resist such hardships for many days.

Hadji Arif Agha returned to Philippopolis about a week ago, and found his house filled with Russian officers, and the rest of his property well-nigh gone. Amongst other possessions which he found appropriated by Russians and Bulgarians were over 10,000 Turkish pounds' worth of grain and fifty pairs of buffaloes.

His imprisonment is stated to be due to his alleged participation in the formation of a body of irregulars, who accompanied the Turkish troops in their expedition to Carlowa and Kalofer last August, after the repulse of General Gourko's raid, and who were then guilty of massacring a good many innocent people at Carlowa and of burning the town of Kalofer. Before his return to Philippopolis a week ago I had heard Bulgarians accuse Hadji Arif Agha of the aforesaid proceedings, and it is probable that they may have repeated the charge to the Russian authorities.

I believe, however, that the charge rests solely on suspicion, and that no valid proof can be brought forward in support of it. But, even if true, it ought not to be made the ground of a prosecution. Hadji Arif Agha, if he did have a hand in the enrolment of Bashi-Bazouks, acted under the orders of the Turkish authorities; and it is to be remembered that the Russian authorities have more than once stated that they had no intention of dealing out punishment for offences committed under the former Government.

During the past week a number of Turkish refugees have been returning daily from Adrianople, Constantinople, and Ghumurdjina. The Russian police, immediately on the arrival of the refugees, require of each man among them kefil ("surety") for good behaviour. Such surety was furnished by Hadji Arif Agha, in the form of a written document signed by fourteen of his friends.

There is a report to-day that a great many other Turks of Philippopolis are shortly to be arrested.

Much surprise is felt that the Russians should act in this way when the Congress has deprived them of the administration of this district, and when the arrival of an International Commission to regulate the government of Eastern Roumelia is expected from day to day.

Among the Turks of Philippopolis the arrest of Hadji Arif Agha has produced the utmost consternation, and, with the fear of similar treatment, many of them repent of having returned hither before the departure of the Russians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 483.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a further enrolment of Bulgarian recruits takes place here to-day. I have not yet been able to learn the number of men to be enrolled in this new levy, but I hope to be in possession of the particulars to-morrow.

There are at present 5,000 Bulgarian troops in camp in this neighbourhood, all young recruits; the remnants of the "Legion" having been disbanded and sent to their homes.

In a village (Ostromagilo) near this town a military school has been established, in which 200 young Bulgarians are already, under Russian instructors, going through the studies necessary to qualify them for officers' commissions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 483.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 13, 1878.

Sir,

THE arrest of Hadji Arif Agha has been followed, on the part of the Russian authorities, by a measure possessing peculiar significance at the present juncture.

The day before yesterday (Sunday) a Proclamation was read in the Bulgarian churches of the town and district, inviting all who have any claim or any grievance against Turks to bring forward such claims and grievances with the least possible delay. The Proclamation announces that Christians, wishing to sue Mussulmans, criminally or civilly, for matters which date from the time of the former Turkish administration, will be heard up to the 27th of the present month, after which no applications of this nature will be entertained.

The interpretation put upon this measure is, naturally, that the Russians wish to deal, after their own ideas, with the Mussulman portion of the population before the arrival of the Commission which is to regulate the administration of the province.

Even before the promulgation of this notice, the Bulgarians were ready enough to sue Turks on just or false grounds, while the Turks have been systematically discouraged from seeking indemnification for their losses and ill-treatment. Your

Excellency may, therefore, imagine what a flood of charges and claims will be brought against the returned or returning Mussulman refugees in the course of the next fortnight.

The Turks in general are already reduced to complete destitution. But it is now intended to worry them with claims, which, whether real or imaginary, the majority of them can never satisfy.

Of the nature of some of the claims brought forward, I will mention one instance. Eniz Effendi, formerly Mollah of Philippopolis, is being sued by a Bulgarian for 800 piastres, the price of some repairs which the latter performed in the house of Eniz Effendi thirty years ago.

Hadji Arif Agha is still confined in the murderers' cell of the local prison. A nephew of his, who had been troubling the Russian authorities about the restitution of his property, and had refused to "grease the palm" of a Bulgarian interpreter, is to-day breaking stones on the new promenade with the Turkish peasants who are ordinarily employed on that work.

On the 26th ultimo two Bulgarians were hanged at Philippopolis for the murder of some Turks in a village near here.

These were not the same Bulgarians whom I reported in my despatch of the 20th July as having been condemned to death, and as having appealed against their sentence. The sentence pronounced against these men has, I believe, been commuted by General Todleben.

Officially and otherwise, everything has been done to attenuate the salutary feeling which should have been produced by the above-mentioned execution. On the same day, seven Turkish families were beaten and robbed by the escort appointed to conduct them back to their villages. The Bulgarian lower classes now either refuse to believe that the execution took place, or say that the criminals were not men of Bulgarian nationality. The execution took place in public, in presence of the entire Bulgarian and Russian garrison; but it is now popularly stated and believed, according to one version, that the prisoners were cut down before they had time to die, and revived; according to another version, that, although they were really executed, they were not Bulgars, but Greeks.

But a fact which is more serious still, and to which I beg most particularly to call the attention of your Excellency, is that, up to the present day, no steps have been taken to find out and punish the authors of the shocking outrage at Yünkioi, which I reported in my despatch, and which I made known at the time to the Russian authorities.

A further interrogatory of the woman Nazik has acquainted me with the fact that the Russian soldiers, two in number, who escorted the refugees of Beykioi to that village, accompanied the refugees the whole way, and took an active part in the outrage at Yünkioi. My previous statement to your Excellency, that the Russian soldiers quitted the refugees before they arrived at Yünkioi, was an error due to the broken utterances of the woman Nazik, which caused me to misunderstand her statement.

Other outrages of like character have since taken place, which I shall have the honour to report to your Excellency in a despatch exclusively devoted to this subject.

The Russian authorities undoubtedly view with dissatisfaction the return of the Turkish population, now taking place. It is a question whether, in the interests of the refugees remaining at Constantinople and elsewhere, it would not be better for them to put off their return until the arrival of the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia.

A Supreme Court of Appeal for civil causes has been elected, and was opened here to-day. The elections took place last week. Out of eight members five are Bulgarians, two Greeks, and one a Jew. The President and Vice-President are Bulgarians. Not a single Turk was elected, nor were the Turks invited to take part in the elections.

Much comment is suggested by this new measure, adopted, as it is, before the arrival of the European Commission. In the present state of affairs here the presence of the Commission in question, as your Excellency will have judged by the foregoing, is most urgently needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 484.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 30.*)

(No. 1041.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, giving some account of the manner in which justice is administered by the Russian and Bulgarian authorities at Adrianople, and in which the police organized by the Russians protect the defenceless Mussulman population.

I earnestly hope that your Lordship may think fit to present this despatch, and others of a similar character from Mr. Calvert, to Parliament, in order that those who denounced the Turkish rule in Turkey in Europe may judge how far the one substituted is an improvement upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, August 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Russo-Bulgarian Major, Hadji Mikhaïl, whose scandalous abuse of his office as Superintendent of Police at Adrianople I had occasion to report in my despatch of the 17th June, was suspended from his post about four or five weeks ago, and after undergoing a lengthened examination on various charges, was definitely superseded on the 13th instant. He was found guilty of having embezzled various sums levied by him as fines, and of having been concerned in a robbery committed by the zaptiehs under his command in the house of Rifaat Effendi, one of the principal Turkish inhabitants of this town. The last-named matter may safely be held to represent many others of the same kind, inasmuch as a domiciliary visit which was made at the house of the accused official resulted in the discovery of a quantity of jewellery, plate, and articles of value carried off by him and his myrmidons from pillaged Mussulman houses. No steps have meanwhile been taken, so far as I am aware, for the restoration of the plundered property to its owners. Other complaints have been brought against the ex-Superintendent by non-Mussulmans, and it appears probable that the examination of these will serve to delay for an indefinite period the passing of a sentence upon him. Nor, if any punishment be ultimately awarded, is it likely to be a severe one, to judge by the fact that Hadji Mikhaïl has been allowed during the course of his trial to appear in public as usual, attended by his orderlies. I may mention, as showing the estimate of the existing régime which has been formed by the public, that it is taken for granted here that the real object of this persecution is merely to make the robber disgorge most of his plunder for the benefit of Russian officials.

With reference to the maltreatment of the inmates of the public prisons at Adrianople, I shall here report a circumstance which occurred shortly before the date of my above-mentioned despatch, but which did not come to my knowledge till afterwards. The facts have been related to me by a Greek lady who was an eye-witness of them.

One morning the lady in question saw a party of four or five Turkish refugees being conducted by a police-officer and some zaptiehs to a police-station which adjoins the house in which she resides. Soon afterwards the zaptiehs came out and began cutting sticks from some trees in front of the station. One of them called out, "Cut more sticks. There are eleven of us in all." They then re-entered the station with a bundle of sticks, and presently she heard a noise of rapid strokes accompanied by cries for mercy in Turkish. As the lady's husband was not at home, she ran down herself and went into the courtyard of the station, where she found an infirm, white-bearded old Turk, who had been laid down on his face and who was being beaten by the whole party of zaptiehs as fast as they could lay on the blows. The police officer meanwhile had the grace to stand outside the door whilst this was going on. On the indignant remonstrances of the lady, the officer directed his men to leave off, and he condescended to explain that the Turks were accused of making cartridges. He promised, however, that this punishment for an offence which had yet to be proved, should not

be renewed. On the following day, seeing an old Turkish woman go into the station and come out again after a time, the lady called her in and questioned her. The woman said she had come to beg for the release of her husband, one of the accused men, and added that the zaptiehs consented to let him go, but only on payment of a medjid (3*s.* 4*d.*), a sum she could not command, "for," said she "I am quite destitute, and have not even one para left." Soon afterwards the Turks were transferred elsewhere, and what further became of them is not known.

I may here report the following further cases bearing on the behaviour of the Russian police at Adrianople, some being in the shape of active misconduct and others in that of the systematic inaction in the performance of their duties which I have had occasion to point out in more than one previous despatch. It will be seen that all these occurrences except the two first are of comparatively recent date.

About the end of April a party consisting of three married women, a girl aged 12, and an old man, all Turks, were strolling among the gardens in the outskirts of Adrianople. They came upon two rural gendarmes, who, driving away the rest of the party, seized one of the women and the young girl, and outraged them both. No show of redress was afforded in this case. In connection with it the following further incident, one of by no means an unusual kind, was brought to my knowledge. The nearest male relative of the girl, who resided at a neighbouring village, came to town to prosecute this affair. On the road, a few miles from Adrianople, he and his companion, an old Turk, perceived a man wearing the uniform and badge of the native Christian police corps engaged in robbing a Turkish lad who was conveying a donkey load of straw to market. The policeman then turned his attention to the new comers, and robbed them also of such clothes as were worth taking as well as of the few piastres they had on them. In this matter, likewise, the Russian authorities took no steps whatever.

The next case in order of date is a very grave one. It is not publicly known, and I only learnt it several weeks after it is stated to have occurred. Although I cannot absolutely vouch for the facts, the source from which I obtained them and the manner in which they were related, leave no reasonable doubt on my mind as to their truth. My immediate authority is a perfectly trustworthy person who learnt the circumstances from one of the policemen employed, who is well known to him as an honest man, and who accompanied his statement with expressions of deep disgust, exclaiming, "Surely such a rule of tyranny and wrong as this never was!" One day about the end of May, said this man, zaptiehs were hastily told off from each police-station in the town, and, under injunctions of strict secrecy, were marched to a spot near the Toundja, on the road to Yamboli. There they found the bodies of twenty-five Turkish refugees who had left the day before on their return to their homes at the latter place, and were massacred when they had got a few miles on their way.

The zaptiehs, who had been provided with the necessary implements, were made to dig graves and to bury the bodies. The informant was unable to say who were the authors of this foul deed. The action of the Russian authorities in hushing up the matter instead of seeking out and punishing the guilty parties is of a piece with their uniform and systematic denial of justice for offences committed against Mussulmans by Christians. It is certain that a second party of refugees who were to have started a day or two after, provided like the first with Russian passports for Yamboli, were ordered to defer their departure. It was not till yesterday that any Turks were finally allowed to return to that place. Several hundred then left by rail, a squad of Russian soldiers accompanying them.

The inhabitants of the Turkish village of Malkoteh, twelve hours north-east of Adrianople, who did not quit their homes on the approach of the Russian army, have as usual been plundered of almost all their cattle by the Bulgarians, and, as these attack all who endeavour to go outside the village, they have been unable to gather in their harvests. It is needless to add that the crops have been appropriated by their Christian neighbours. In addition to these proceedings, on the 16th June a party of Bulgarians kidnapped from the village a Turk possessing some means, and two days afterwards sent into his family one of his ears, which they had cut off, demanding 12,000 piastres as a ransom. The villagers sent 2,000 piastres, which was all they could collect, but the Bulgarians sent another message, threatening that unless the remaining 10,000 piastres were paid they would destroy the village. The villagers represented the matter to the officer in command of a detachment stationed at Gaffihar, half-an-hour from Malkoteh; but the only comfort they received from that quarter was the advice that they should find the sum demanded, when the officer would

provide a soldier to accompany their messenger, and ascertain whether the kidnapped man was still alive. The villagers then dispatched a deputation to Adrianople, but these people were still without an answer a fortnight after they had given in their petition to the Russian authorities, and I believe they ultimately returned home as they came. The kidnapped man was, by last accounts, still missing.

On the 15th July a party of eight Turks left Adrianople for the village of Erikler, near Kirk-Kilissa. They had with them a pair of buffaloes and a pair of oxen. They were joined on the road, near Kara-Yussullar, by a party of six Bulgarians, supposed to be from that village, three being on horseback, who carried fire-arms, and three on foot, armed with hatchets and clubs. After a time the Bulgarians fell upon the unarmed Turks, and besides robbing them of their money and clothes and the cattle, killed one with a hatchet, and wounded and beat the others most savagely with hatchets, knives, and clubs. Several had their limbs broken, and two were unable to move from the spot till next day. The others returned to town at once, covered with blood, and laid their case before the authorities. The police, instead of directing their researches to the suspected Bulgarian village of Kara-Yussullar, contented themselves with arresting, on no grounds whatever, four Greeks from Petra, a village seven hours from the scene of the outrage. Upon the wounded Turks declaring that they did not recognize any of their assailants among the men arrested, the Russian police desisted from further action in the matter. About ten days after the event one of the Turks recognized the two stolen oxen as they were being driven into the town. He at once gave notice to the nearest police-station; and although the cattle were still within sight, the officer in command refused to move in the matter, observing that "such things are not worth noticing." I may here mention that the same village of Erikler, and that of Elmadjik, in its neighbourhood, have within the last few days been the scene of outrageous proceedings on the part of a detachment of Cossacks lately quartered there. The inhabitants of those villages for the most part did not quit their homes on the retreat of the Turkish army, and the Russians had omitted to summon those remaining to give up their arms. When the demand was made, on the arrival of the detachment, those who had weapons, to the number of fourteen persons, at once gave them up. These men were fined 10,450 piastres, and many others were beaten on suspicion of concealing arms. One man, named Mehmed Ali Pehlwan, besides being savagely flogged with whips by Cossacks, had his face injured through his head being kicked against the stony ground on which he was laid by the captain in command, who, moreover, struck his spurs into the side of the prostrate man, covering him with blood. Although no arms were found in the possession of this man, he was fined 2 liras all the same. No notice has yet been taken of the petition on these matters sent in to the authorities at Adrianople.

On the 17th July Rushid Aga, a Turkish landowner, sent his steward, a Turk, to his farm at Kukuller, a Bulgarian village four hours from Adrianople, provided with a paper from the Russian authorities, assigning one-half of Rushid Aga's harvested crops to himself and the other half to the Bulgarian villagers. This, as in every other instance, proved a dead letter. Moreover, as the steward, a day or two after his arrival, was sleeping at a mill belonging to his master, a Bulgarian of the village, named Yovan, son of Petro, struck him a murderous blow on the back of the head with a club. As the Turk rose Yovan struck him again on the lower part of the spine. At this moment Rushid Aga's miller, a Bulgarian, came out, and the assassin ran off. The miller placed the injured man in a cart and brought him to Adrianople, where he died two days afterwards. He was able to name the murderer before he expired, and the miller having also denounced him, he was arrested. He was, however, released again immediately on payment of a fine of 2 liras. Rushid Aga has since seen and spoken to the assassin, who was pleased to express his regret at the lawless state of things now prevailing, but added, by way of apology, that "the Bulgarians were encouraged by the Russians to do these things." However unfounded this statement may be, it is a patent and incontestable fact that the Russian authorities give, at least, their tacit assent to the abominable deeds still daily perpetrated by the Bulgarians on the defenceless Mussulmans.

I might say the same as regards cases of murder and murderous assault committed by Bulgarians on Greeks, of which there have been several of late, where the victims were persons of a certain standing, and where no measures have been taken to bring the offenders to justice.

In cases where Greeks are the offenders and the victims are Turks, as I have already pointed out, a certain difference of treatment is observable. I shall here cite some cases in point.

The few farmsteads and other buildings belonging to Turkish landowners in this neighbourhood which had been left standing, have now, I believe, without exception, been destroyed. Among the last was a farm belonging to Refik Bey at Akhir-kioï, a village two hours from Adrianople, which was burnt by the Bulgarian villagers on the 22nd July. The portion of the crops nominally assigned to Rifaat Effendi at Tatar-kioï, another village at the same distance from town, were completely pillaged by the Bulgarians there about the same time. No steps whatever have been taken in these matters by the Russian authorities, either to punish the Bulgarian offenders or to indemnify the victims. They have, on the other hand, acted differently as regards two large mills close to the town, the one belonging to Shakir Bey and the other to Mustafa Bey, which were destroyed on the 28th July by the Greeks of the neighbouring village of Avariz. The first of these proprietors, a venerable old man of 85, had recourse, at first, to the Bulgarian official who has been doing duty as Superintendent of Police during the suspension of Major Hadji Mikhaïl, imploring him to stop the work of demolition whilst it was yet in progress, as the income from the mill was his and his family's only remaining means of support. The old man received for answer the almost incredible assertion that the local police could not act in the matter because the mill in question (which is situated on the very outskirts of Adrianople) was within the jurisdiction of Slimnia. When, however, Shakir Bey succeeded later in obtaining an audience of the Governor of Adrianople his application was received more favourably, for General Lipinsky gave orders that the destroyed mills should be rebuilt at the expense of the Greeks of Avarez, who have, moreover, been fined for the offence.

I feel bound to add my conviction, derived from what I have seen of General Lipinsky myself, and from the opinion entertained of his Excellency by a public which has, in general, little sympathy for Russia, that in according justice in this last case the Governor has but acted in conformity with his own feelings. I happen to know that on one occasion, when a number of Turks were brought to Adrianople in chains by the Christians of Demotica, General Lipinsky could not restrain his indignation at the sight, and he exclaimed: "Here, no doubt, are some more of these poor inoffensive Turks, unjustly accused by Greek and Bulgarian rascals." He then ordered the chains to be struck off, and the men to be treated with every leniency, pending an inquiry into the case. I believe it to be impossible for any one who has an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the officers of the Russian army to doubt that generous feelings such as these are very generally shared, and I may further say that those who by their position are more or less at liberty to say what they think are often heard to express their shame and sorrow at the state of things tolerated under the Russian name. A foreign resident here, conversing lately on this subject with a Russian superior officer, recapitulated a series of misdeeds and wrongs of the kind recorded in this despatch. The officer replied: "I cannot say much, Sir, for your information." "How so?" asked the other. "Because," was the reply, "many other things have happened worse than any you mention, and which you would doubtless have alluded to had you known them." There are grounds for believing that this remark referred to the atrocities committed in the Ilas-kioï district which have been brought to light by the International Commission, and which had remained unknown to the public on this side of the Russian lines operating against the Rhodope.

The particular cases which I have noted above are doubtless but a tithe of those occurring in various parts of the country, and especially in the remoter districts. Everything points to the conclusion that higher authorities than those charged with the administration of this province are responsible for the existing misrule, and that the latter are hardly free to depart, even in the way of a mitigation of injustice, from the line of conduct which has been prescribed to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 485.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1042.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 19, 1878.*

I SPOKE to Safvet Pasha to-day on the subject of the continued disturbances on the Turko-Persian frontier caused by the excesses committed by the Kurds, and referred to in Mr. Consul Abbott's despatch to your Lordship No. 24 of the 14th instant. I represented to his Highness that it was incumbent upon the Porte to put an end to a state of things which kept the border territories of both countries in a constant state of disorder little creditable to the Porte and highly injurious to their peaceable population. It appeared to me, I said, that as the war was at an end, the Porte ought to lose no time in coming to an understanding with the Persian Government on the subject of the Kurds, who could now carry on their depredations with impunity by crossing the frontiers to escape punishment; and I suggested that a Convention, somewhat like that concluded between Turkey and Greece for the suppression of brigandage, might be entered into between the Porte and Persia with respect to the Kurds.

I asked Safvet Pasha whether the Porte intended to comply at once with the LXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which required the surrender of Khotour to Persia.

His Highness replied that, until the Commission which had been appointed years ago to determine the Turko-Persian frontiers had finished its labours, it would be impossible for the Porte to conclude with Persia such a Convention as I had suggested, as at present much uncertainty existed as to what was Turkish territory and what Persian. When this had been clearly defined, measures could be taken to prevent the Kurds from crossing from the one country into the other, and the two Governments could act together to put a stop to these depredations. The Persian Commissioner was now in Constantinople, and if England and Russia would send their Commissioners, the Porte would be ready to finish the delimitation of the frontiers. As for Khotour, it was, of course, his intention to fulfil the obligation imposed upon Turkey by the Treaty of Berlin, and to surrender this place to Persia; but in this case also it was necessary that the Boundary Commission should fix the limits of the district.

I had an opportunity after seeing Safvet Pasha to inform the Persian Ambassador of what his Highness had said to me.

Mohsin Khan observed that he had suspected that the Porte intended to mix up the surrender of Khotour to Persia with the delimitation of the frontiers, thinking thus to delay the execution of the Article of the Treaty of Berlin in the expectation that something might turn up; but he intended, his Excellency said, to press for the immediate appointment of a Commission to deliver the district to the Persian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 486.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1043.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 19, 1878.*

MEHEMET ALI PASHA called upon me to-day to say that he was leaving in the evening for Albania, sent by the Porte as Commissioner to put into execution the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin relating to the territorial cessions to Servia and Montenegro, and to reconcile the Albanians to them. His Excellency stated to me that he was instructed to do his utmost to prevail upon the Albanians to desist from their threatened resistance to the decisions of the Congress, and to permit the Servians and Montenegrins to occupy peaceably the additional territory assigned to them. He was determined, he said, to perform the mission entrusted to him in a loyal and conciliatory manner, and to fulfil scrupulously the obligations imposed upon Turkey by the Treaty. He expressed his hope that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro would meet him in the same spirit, and would join with him in preventing the continuation of hostilities, and any further effusion of blood. He begged me to endeavour to have Her

Majesty's Consuls at Belgrade and Ragusa, or Scutari, informed of his intentions, and he trusted they would be instructed to give him their assistance and support in bringing his mission to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 487.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 30.*)

(No. 1044.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 19, 1878.*

WHEN I was urging upon Safvet Pasha this morning the importance of sending renewed instructions to the Turkish authorities in Bosnia to restrain the population from offering opposition to the occupation of the province by the Austrian army, and to induce them to receive the Austrians as friends, his Highness placed in my hands two telegrams, copies of which I inclose, one addressed by him to Hafiz Pasha, and the other an answer to it.

His Highness assured me that he had done his utmost to prevent the attacks made upon the Austrian troops, but that it was impossible to restrain the Mussulman and Orthodox inhabitants of Bosnia from resisting what they considered the unjust and forcible annexation of their country by a foreign State. Already ten of the Turkish functionaries, military and civil, who had endeavoured to carry out the instructions of the Porte, had fallen victims to the popular resentment.

Safvet Pasha emphatically denied that any Turkish troops, except the Bosnian native battalions, had taken part in the engagements with the Austrian forces, as stated by the Austrian Government. The Bosnian native troops had refused to obey their officers, and had joined the population. The Turkish regulars had, on the contrary, gone over to the Austrians, and a part of them had already been embarked for Prevesa.

His Highness declared to me categorically that the accusation against the Porte of having in any way incited the Bosnians and Herzegovinians to resist the Austrian occupation was unfounded. If, his Highness observed, there had been any intrigues with this object, they did not emanate from Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 487.

Safvet Pasha to Hafiz Pasha.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 6 Août, 1878.*

Je vous avais précédemment recommandé d'avoir à déclarer aux habitants notables de Sérajevo et des sandjaks que toute résistance armée à l'entrée des troupes Autrichiennes serait inutile, et qu'une telle attitude pourrait entraîner pour eux des conséquences fâcheuses. Vous deviez publier, soit par télégramme, soit par d'autres moyens convenables, que le Gouvernement Impérial tenait à ce que toute velléité d'opposition fût abandonnée.

Or, on vient de nous informer que d'après ce que le Commandant Philippovich a écrit à Vienna, les députés qui vous ont accompagné auprès de lui auraient déclaré n'avoir aucune connaissance du contenu des télégrammes qui vous ont été adressés dans ce sens. Il doit y avoir là un malentendu. Vous aurez donc à rétablir les faits, c'est-à-dire déclarer de nouveau à qui de droit, que toute résistance à l'entrée des troupes Autrichiennes irait à l'encontre de la volonté du Gouvernement Impérial. En outre, comme on se plaint que la Proclamation du Gouvernement Autrichien n'ait pas été publiée à Sérajévo, et que, par conséquent, le public se trouve ignorer les intentions de ce Gouvernement, il ne faut apporter aucun obstacle à cette publication. En un mot, vous ferez comprendre à qui de droit, qu'en ne s'opposant pas par la force armée à l'entrée des troupes Autrichiennes et en les accueillant partout en amis, on agirait tant dans l'intérêt du Gouvernement Impérial que dans celui de toute la population.

Inclosure 2 in No. 487.

Hafiz Pasha to Safvet Pasha.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 6 Août, 1878.*

J'AI reçu aujourd'hui le télégramme de votre Excellence en date du 5 Août, concernant les plaintes du Commandant-en-chef des troupes Austro-Hongroises adressées à son Gouvernement de ce que la manière de voir de la Sublime Porte, et le caractère de l'occupation n'auraient pas été communiqués aux populations.

Il n'y a eu aucune négligence jusqu'ici dans les recommendations faites aux notables. Du reste, le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois ayant lui-même soin de proclamer ses intentions par le canal de ses Commandants partout sur le passage des troupes Autrichiennes, n'a jamais eu recours à l'intermédiaire des autorités Ottomanes, qui, d'ailleurs, n'ont reçu aucun avis de la part des Consuls de cette Puissance. Enfin, l'occupation, sans coup férir, de la moitié du pays par les Autrichiens, prouve le soin qui a été mis à ce que les intentions de la Sublime Porte soient partout connues. Néanmoins, l'entrée en masse des troupes étrangères a produit dans le pays une effervescence telle que nos efforts pour prévenir cette effervescence, et empêcher les populations de prendre les armes, ont malheureusement échoué, et un grand nombre de nos fonctionnaires civils et militaires sont tombés victimes de la surexcitation des esprits.

No. 488.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August 30.*)

(No. 1045.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to you Lordship a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert of Philippopolis, inclosing copy of a protest on the part of a number of Bulgarians against the restoration of Turkish rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 488.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, August 14, 1878.*

I BEG to forward to your Excellency herewith a translated copy of a protest against the decisions of the Congress, as regards the Bulgarians, which was handed to me yesterday by a deputation consisting of the headmen of ninety-four villages in three out of the five circumscriptions into which the Caza of Philippopolis is divided.

This protest, the foolish and intemperate wording of which is hardly calculated to advance the aspirations of the Bulgarian community, is the result of an agitation which some of the leading Bulgarians of this town and district have lately set on foot among the peasantry, an agitation which, it is seriously to be feared, may lead, in a short time, to most deplorable consequences.

The majority of the deputation which waited upon me yesterday being illiterate peasants, were probably unacquainted with the language which they were made to use in this protest. But they repeated to me, in substance, verbally, the concluding parts of the document. They declared with vehemence that they would never submit to be governed by a Turkish Pasha, or to be held in awe by Turkish troops; that they would rise in insurrection against the application of such arrangements, and fight to the last man.

I answered by assuring them that there was no occasion for such a desperate attitude; that full liberty to enjoy the fruits of their industry, to grow rich and to multiply, and to exercise their religion without restraint, would be assured to them, as well as to other communities, by the united power of Europe; and that, if they foolishly persisted in carrying out their present expressed determination, they would forfeit the support of all Europe, including Russia, and would probably bring upon themselves the annihilation which they wrongly anticipated from the decisions of the Congress. I also advised them not to give ear to the instigations of the agitators who,

I know, were trying to fill the minds of the people with gloomy apprehensions for the future, but whose objects were selfish, and who would take care to avert from themselves the dreadful consequences which their agitation, if successful, would entail.

The deputation went away apparently in the same mood as when they came, but I am told that some of them afterwards expressed approval of my advice.

There is much reason to fear, however, that the Bulgarian peasantry of Roumelia will be goaded, by the agitators of the towns, not into offering any serious resistance to the Turkish army, but into committing widespread massacres on the unfortunate Turkish villagers who are now at their mercy. No one knows this better than the agitators to whom I refer, and they calculate (erroneously, perhaps) that the Turkish troops will be led to commit reprisals which will once more call forth the intervention of Europe, or at all events of Russia.

At my first official interview with Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff yesterday, his Excellency stated that, in his opinion, a very serious danger threatens to be caused by the withdrawal of the Russian troops. The Turkish army, which will occupy the country in measure as the Russians retire, will doubtless, he thinks, commit, or allow to be committed, outrages upon the Christian population, which will give occasion for reprisals on the Mussulmans in the country still held by the Russians, reprisals which the latter will not be able to restrain.

By whichever side the provocation is first given, great disorders and bloodshed are, I cannot but think, likely to accompany and follow the retreat of the Russians. It is not to be denied that now, and for six months past, the treatment of the Mussulmans in Roumelia affords, and would at any time during those six months have afforded, grounds for reprisals on the part of the Turks.

The Russians may, or may not, find it to their interest to abstain from taking steps that may tend to avert this great danger. Whether they will, or will not, take such steps, depends, I venture to say, very much on circumstances. They feel, undoubtedly, the utmost reluctance to withdraw from Roumelia; and their officers freely express hopes that the decision of the Congress on this point may not be fulfilled. Nearly a year having still to elapse before the time appointed for their evacuation of the country, they indulge in all sorts of mental speculation, looking forward to what I may call the "chapter of accidents" for circumstances to arise which may furnish their Government with an excuse for refusing to abide by the decisions of the Congress.

Prince Dondoukoff observed to me yesterday that in the actual position of affairs, the elements liable to kindle a new war are numberless, and that little short of a miracle can prevent the Eastern question from entering a peaceful phase without fresh hostilities occurring.

Here, the Russians are acting as if they had not the remotest intention of quitting the country, and as if the expected European Commission were not expected.

They have just commenced to make a fresh levy of troops, which will number, Prince Dondoukoff informed me, 30,000 men. They have just created a new Tribunal, the Court of Appeal, the opening of which I reported to your Excellency yesterday; and they are now daily arresting Turks, on the accusation of Bulgarians, on account of the massacres of 1876.

Hadji Shaban Agha, a Turkish merchant, enjoying the highest reputation for integrity, was yesterday thrown into the same dungeon with Hadji Arif Agha. Several other arrests of persons of minor importance have also taken place, and others are expected to be made.

The new Court of Appeal is not, as I erroneously reported yesterday, composed of members of the different communities, but of Bulgarians alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 468.

Protest by Bulgarians.

(Translation.)

Ploudiv,* *July* 31, 1878 (o. s.)

Your Excellency,

FROM the very beginning of the Berlin Congress it was said in the papers that Bulgaria was to be divided into parts, according to the plans of England; but we did not believe these rumours, as being non-official. Now that the decisions of the

* The Bulgarian name of Philippopolis.

Congress are officially known, we are astonished at the fearful news that this country, inhabited by pure Bulgarians, is to be separated from the other Bulgaria, and, under the name of Eastern Roumelia, some kind of autonomy is to be given to her. We were most of all surprised, bearing in mind the help which a part of the noble English nation sent to the inhabitants here after the massacres of 1876. Where are they? And why were there so many sympathies from the English people, when we see to-day that the English Government itself desires to subject us again to the unbearable Turkish yoke, the tyranny of which we had to suffer for five centuries, with unspeakable hardships, and from which God delivers us to-day, through His anointed, the true Czar of the world, His Imperial Majesty the Emperor Alexander II.

We are surprised, indeed, when we read in books and papers that England sends civilization and progress and happiness to the wildest and the remotest corners of Africa and Australia, to countries which no other Europeans visit, where the world does not see what she does. But here, in the midst of Europe!

Seeing the conduct of some of her Ministers, we are in doubt of the good England does in other parts of the world. Lord Beaconsfield, high-priest-like, killed Bulgaria in Berlin, and offered her in sacrifice to the English idol. All the world became deaf with the cries, "Our interests, our interests!" as if other nations had no interests, or as if all the other nations in the world were created only to serve English interests. It is known now that Lord Beaconsfield has decided (it would appear with a philanthropical object) to annihilate altogether the Bulgarian nation. For this reason he now accomplishes the division which he prepared for this unhappy people long ago. The Bulgarian nation is torn into five pieces—Bulgarians in the Principality, Bulgarians under Roumania, Bulgarians under Servia, Bulgarians with autonomous institutions in Thrace, and Bulgarians under Turkey.

We loudly protest against this unrighteous decision of the Berlin Congress, and we declare that we cannot accept conditions which are calculated to annihilate us. We cannot again submit to the infernal authority which for five centuries was sucking our blood, crushing our bones, and burning our bodies. We declare that the Bulgarian people cannot be blotted out from the face of the earth by such fictitious designations. No; the Bulgarians will try to defend their country from the Turkish occupation to the last drop of their blood. Streams of Bulgarian blood will run again through the newly-devastated plains of our unhappy fatherland.

Thanking, in the meantime, the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, we beg of your Excellency to communicate to them a copy of our address.

We have, &c.

(Follow the names of 94 villages in the circumscriptions of Karadja-Dagh, Koyoun-Tepé, and Ruptchus (Rhodope).

No. 469.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1049.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter and its inclosure, which I received yesterday from the Russian Ambassador, relative to the appointment of the English Commissioner who is to assist in marking out the new Russo-Turkish boundary-line in Asia, as well as that between Turkey and Persia at Khotour.

I informed Prince Labanoff, in reply, that I had communicated the substance of his letter to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* The Bulgarian name of Philippopolis.

Inclosure 1 in No. 489.

Prince Lobanow to Sir A. H. Layard.

Buyukdéré, le 20 Août, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

D'APRÈS ce qui a été convenu au Congrès de Berlin, un délégué Anglais devra participer au tracé de la nouvelle frontière Asiatique entre la Russie et la Turquie, dans la Valée d'Alachkerd, ainsi qu'à celui de la nouvelle frontière de la Turquie avec la Perse à Khotour.

En transmettant à votre Excellence une copie de la dépêche que j'ai reçue à ce sujet, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien, s'il est possible, accélérer la désignation de votre délégué, attendu que d'après les renseignements supplémentaires qui viennent de me parvenir, il est indispensable que la Commission de Délimitation commence ses travaux sur les lieux dans le plus bref délai: la saison est déjà avancée, et plus tard, en automne et en hiver, les chemins dans ces contrées sont à peu près impraticables. Si d'ici là la nouvelle frontière n'était pas tracée, l'incertitude qui en résulterait pourrait occasioner des malentendus parmi les populations, et avoir des conséquences les plus regrettables.

Je viens d'appeler sur cette circonstance la sérieuse attention de Son Altesse le Grand Vézir, et je serais bien obligé à votre Excellence si, de son côté, elle voudrait bien me faire connaître les dispositions qu'elle jugera nécessaire de prendre à la suite de ma présente communication.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) LOBANOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 489.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.

St. Pétersbourg, le 25 Juillet, 1878.

LE Cabinet Impérial a proposé de fixer le 1/13 Septembre pour la réunion des diverses Commissions qui devront élaborer sur place les détails des questions décrétées en principe par le Traité de Berlin, afin d'en assurer et accélérer la mise à exécution.

Outre les Commissions Européennes, le Congrès a prévu l'envoi d'une Commission Russo-Turque de délimitation, qui doit être chargée de tracer sur les lieux la nouvelle frontière des territoires qui ont été attribués à la Russie en Asie, et de ceux qui font retour à la Turquie.

Veuillez vous concerter avec la Porte sur la désignation d'un Commissaire, et sur la date proposée pour la réunion de cette Commission, qui pourrait avoir lieu à Batoum.

Comme il a été convenu qu'un délégué Anglais serait invité à participer à la délimitation dans la Vallée d'Alashkerd, vous êtes autorisé à vous entendre à ce sujet avec l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople, qui sera sans doute chargé de la désignation de ce délégué. En cas contraire vous le prierez de prendre les ordres de son Gouvernement.

En outre, il nous semblerait pratique que la dite Commission avec la participation du délégué Anglais fût également chargé d'effectuer la délimitation entre la Perse et la Turquie à Khotour.

Vous êtes en conséquence autorisé à vous entendre également sur ce point avec M. Layard, ainsi qu'avec votre collègue de Perse à Constantinople, que vous prierez de vouloir bien en référer à son Gouvernement.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) DE GIERS.

No. 490.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 1051. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose copy of a very interesting private letter addressed to me by Vice-Consul Calvert from Philippopolis giving an account of a conversation with

Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, and of the proceedings of Russian Agents in Eastern Roumelia, with a view to the speedy annexation of that province to Bulgaria.

The Prince's remarks as to the difference between the character of the Bulgarians and the other Slav races is curious, as tending to confirm the ethnological fact that the Bulgarians are not Slavs at all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 490.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 17, 1878.

Sir,

I TAKE the liberty to communicate to your Excellency privately a Minute of the conversation I had with Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff at my first official interview with his Excellency the other day.

He opened the conversation by showing me some plans which have been drawn up for him for some extensive waterworks, by which a supply of drinkable water is to be brought to town from Deismendere, at the foot of the Balkans. The undertaking is estimated to cost 800,000 fr., which will, he said, be defrayed by a loan made to the municipality by the Treasury of the province, and the amortisation of which will be effected by means of a special tax levied on householders.

He said that very serious consequences were likely to result from the withdrawal of the Russian troops, and he intended to proceed on Sunday (to-morrow) to San Stefano and Constantinople to confer with General Todleben and Prince Labanoff on the arrangements to be made in connection with this movement. It is proposed that the Turkish army shall advance and occupy the country in measure as and immediately after the Russians withdraw. But if, as is likely, the Turkish Commanders are unable to restrain their refugee peasantry from committing outrages and murders on the Christians, the Russians will be unable to prevent similar excesses on the part of the Christians.

Already, he informed me, troubles have taken place at Yeni-Zaghra. The Russian troops there have been transferred to some other place temporarily about a week ago: the Turks and Christians engaged in conflict and other troops had to be sent to restore peace.

I do not understand how the Turks can possibly have engaged in hostilities, considering that they are completely disarmed. It is more likely that the Bulgarians committed outrages upon them which called for the intervention of the Russians.

The Prince, as I have already informed your Excellency, took a very gloomy view of the situation, and said that disorders and massacres were certain to follow the withdrawal of the Russians.

I observed that possibly such lamentable results might be prevented by the occupation of the country, after its evacuation by the Russians, being entrusted to a mixed European force.

He informed me that he had caused a list to be made of all the Bulgarian villages destroyed and of the Bulgarians massacred, executed, missing, or who died of privation during their flight over the Balkans in the districts of Philippopolis and Slimnia. He said that the number of lives (Bulgarian) lost in these two districts during the war was between 10,000 and 12,000, and the number of Bulgarian villages destroyed over 300. He said he was now having a similar list made of Turkish villages destroyed, and that he anticipated the number would be larger in this district, but smaller in the Slimnia district than that of the destroyed Bulgar villages.

It is to be remembered that the Bulgarian villages were destroyed during active hostilities, while the destruction of Turkish villages has taken place since the Russian occupation of the country.

He praised the conduct and capabilities of the new Bulgarian troops, but said that the men of the original "Legion" were mostly blackguards and adventurers, though first-rate soldiers in action, and that was why he had disbanded them, to prevent them "gangrening" the young Bulgarian troops.

He asked whether I had remarked a certain tenacity and doggedness of purpose in the Bulgarian character underlying their outward meekness and servility. I said that I had. He observed that they did not resemble in this respect the other Slavs, least of all the Russians, who are superficial and light of purpose, but more resembled the

Teutonic races and the Finns of Russia, the latter having exactly the same peculiarity of temperament.

He ridiculed the idea of the Balkans being a formidable barrier in a military sense. There are hundreds of points, he said, where it can be overrun. In his opinion Turkey would have to keep a large army there and spend immense sums of money in fortifications, all to no purpose.

He said that England had determined to annihilate the Bulgarians as a nation, but we could not hope to succeed. Roumelia and Bulgaria north of the Balkans would inevitably be some day united—in five, ten, or twenty years.

He laughed at the idea of the Laz petitions, saying that they were all instigated, and that there were no Lazes at Batoum at all.

I observed that the present agitation among the Bulgarians also appeared to be instigated rather than spontaneous, but he did not agree to this. The Greek petitions presented to the Congress were absurd.

Referring to the recent Commission sent to the Rhodope district, he said, "Voilà encore une comédie."

I wrote out the above notes immediately after my interview with the Prince, in the exact order, as far I could remember, of the subjects touched upon.

With respect to the Bulgarian agitation, I am informed by a trustworthy person that a certain Gergikoff of this town went round lately to the different villages and persuaded them to put their name to the petitions which they handed to me. Other petitions containing still more violent abuse of the British Government were given to the Austrian and French Vice-Consuls and to Prince Dondoukoff. I hope to obtain a copy of the letter, but the Austrian and French Vice-Consuls having sent the originals, untranslated, to their respective Embassies, I cannot furnish your Excellency with copies of them.

The leading Bulgars are also, I understand, preparing a protest to be addressed to the great Powers. They disapprove of the language employed in the peasants' address, though they share the sentiments it expressed. They have formed among themselves a kind of Association, with the object of frustrating the application of the Berlin Treaty. They would even hail with delight a fresh war, and such influence as they have with the Russians will be exerted to induce the latter to take up arms again on their behalf. One of them said to me the other day that they would revolt against the return of the Turkish troops. I observed that I did not think that they could hope to oppose the Turkish troops successfully, but that they would probably expend all their hellicose energies in massacring the unarmed Turkish population. He said that very likely they would, and the Turks would then commit atrocities on the Bulgarians, which would again provoke the intervention of Europe, or at all events of Russia. They talk among other wild projects of burning down Philippopolis and all the other towns and villages, and leaving the country a desert.

Prince Dondoukoff is said to be extremely opposed to the carrying out of the Congress decisions in regard to the Bulgarians. He is very popular with the latter, having from the first shown sympathy with their aspirations. I presume that it is to palliate the execution of two Bulgars lately that no steps whatever are being taken to punish the authors of recent outrages. I hear from Yamboli that no punishment whatever has been inflicted on the persecutors of the Protestants at Kazaladué; not even one arrest has been made, and the persecution has recommenced. There are also reports of outrages on Protestants north of the Balkans.

It is said that Prince Dondoukoff will proceed from Constantinople to the Crimea, where he will lay before the Emperor numerous petitions against Turks, which are now pouring in, in consequence of the recent Proclamation that all such complaints must be given in before August 27th, and that on the strength of the array of facts showing the persecution of the Bulgars by the Turks before the Russian occupation, which it is hoped thus to accumulate, he will endeavour to induce the Czar to sanction a system of intrigues having in view the non-fulfilment of the Berlin Treaty.

The condition of most of the returned Turks here is deplorable. Some of them are literally starving, and I have received complaints that their houses, which they have endeavoured to repair, are being pulled down by the Bulgarians over their heads. The cause of the imprisonment of Hadji Shaban Agha is as follows:—

"Five years ago he borrowed from a Bulgarian usurer named Hadji Kattchoff 400*l.* Turkish, giving the latter as security his wife's jewels, valued at 1,000*l.* Turkish. He lately offered to repay Hadji Kattchoff the principal and interest of his debt; but Kattchoff refuses to give up the jewels, demanding compound interest, whereas only simple interest had been stipulated for. Shaban Agha having had recourse to the Tribunals, Kattchoff sent his son round to the Bulgarian villages, and induced some of the peasants to lodge false charges against Shaban Agha, which have led to the latter's arrest."

Hadji Hafnir Ahmet Effendi, a nephew of Arif Agha's, was without previous trial condemned by the Chief of Police to break stones on the high road for ten days, and to spend the nights in prison. He had been accused of speaking disrespectfully of the Russo-Bulgarian administration by a Bulgarian dragoman, to whom he had refused to give "backshish." He was released four days afterwards, however, through the intercession of the French Vice-Consul.

There are at Philippopolis and elsewhere a number of Turkish children who have been adopted by Bulgarians and Russian officers. I have tried unavailingly to obtain their transfer to the Compassionate Fund Hospital. In one instance, a brother of two young girls, adopted by a Russian Major and his wife, gave about a fortnight ago a petition to recover his sisters, but I learn that he has as yet received no answer. If through your Excellency's good offices the Russian Government could be induced to give orders for all Turkish children to be given up to their community, I might see that those orders were carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 491.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 29, 1878.

HAVING obtained permission for Mr. Freeman to telegraph to me in cypher, I requested him to keep me informed of the state of affairs, and to give me details of occupation of Bosna-Serai, especially as to destruction of life and property by either party, I have received following telegram from him, dated yesterday:—

"Considerable resistance to occupation of this town; probably about 4,000 Turks under arms; cannon on surrounding heights; fighting lasted seven hours. Austrian troops fired on from the houses in the town. Correct estimate of Turkish losses impossible; it is supposed about 1,500 killed and wounded, including many women and children, but Turks afraid to go away out of the town to search for them. Austrian loss, upwards of 100 killed and 500 wounded. Town not much damaged by artillery, although bombs fell in all parts. About forty houses burnt in the suburbs.

"Inhabitants have been disarmed. During perquisition in houses many valuables taken by soldiers. No consideration shown to the Mahommedans who, though cowed, are hostile, even [?] formerly to the occupation. All Turkish officers dismissed and Government monies seized. Hafiz Pasha and all Ottoman troops sent prisoners to Brod. It is undisguised annexation of the country. Several leaders of the resistance have been hung, and many prisoners sent to Brod. Armed resistance continues in many parts [?] here. General feeling of discontent and uneasiness. Austrian military Administration very defective; scarcity of food, medicine, &c.; much sickness. Future prospects gloomy; crops to great extent lost; peasants plundered owners, farm-houses, and land; refuse to give them their share of produce, and neglect the fields. I have sent details by the post."

No. 492.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 211.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1878.

IT is denied at the Austrian Foreign Office that any insurgents were hanged at Bosna-Serai excepting one, who tried to get up a movement after the place was in possession of the Austrians. Hafiz Pasha has never been treated as a prisoner. He is now at Trieste, from whence he will proceed to Constantinople almost immediately.

No. 493.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 800.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 30, 1878.*

I AM informed that Sultan has telegraphed to Midhat Pasha that he may return to Constantinople.

No. 494.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 801.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 30, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY has informed Safvet Pasha that Austrian Government consents to stop advance of Austrian troops upon Novi-Bazar, but upon condition that the Austrian Consul at Prisrend shall go to Mitrovitza to make a full inquiry into the truth of the reports that have reached Austrian Government as to large quantity of arms and ammunition that have been sent through that place to the Bosnian insurgents and into Northern Albania.

No. 495.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 30, 1878.*

A DESPATCH of Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs to Greek Consul at Larissa, instructing him to inform Mussulmans that if Greece obtains possession of Thessaly they will be maintained in their places and treated better than now, has been intercepted by Turkish Government. Instructions sent to Turkish Minister at Athens to make representations here and to protest against Greek propaganda in Turkey.

No. 496.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I learn from French Minister for Foreign Affairs that Turkish Ambassador has made an application for Commissioner to examine into Turkish finance, and said similar application had been made to Her Majesty's Government.

Minister for Foreign Affairs says that he was somewhat taken by surprise, and whilst not objecting in principle, he asked for details, which Turkish Ambassador could not give him. He will do nothing till he hears further, and he wishes to know views of Her Majesty's Government whether they accept, and, if so, as to choice and rank of person chosen.

No. 497.

M. Commoundouros to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, August 31.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 19 Août, 1878.*

NOS Consuls en Epire et en Thessalie continuent à nous signaler les actes de violence que les soldats Musulmans continuent d'y commettre; l'état de ces provinces est déplorable. Contrairement à ses engagements la Porte y envoie des Circassiens.

No. 498.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 1052.) *Therapia, August 22, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract from a letter from a highly-respectable gentleman connected with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, now at Adrianople. It gives an account of a further outrage committed by Bulgarians on some Mussulmans who had returned to their village. As Mr. Calvert is not here, I have not yet received an official report from him on the subject. The writer also alludes to the rumour that Slav agents are intriguing to get up a revolution amongst the Bulgarians to prevent the decision of the Congress in regard to Roumelia being carried into effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 498.

Extract from a Private Letter.

LE Cavass Hussein, du Consulat Anglais de notre ville, vient à l'instant me présenter les nommés Moustafa Mehmet Oglou, Omer Oglou Latif, Moustafa Oglou, Ahmet et Ebib, du village Sari Talusman, du Nahié de Tzokia.

Ce village est six heures loin d'Andrinople.

Ces messieurs se sont sauvés de leur village pour se plaindre aux autorités Russes de notre ville, que dans la journée du Dimanche 18 courant les Bulgares conscrits du village de Tatarkeuy (une heure loin de leur village) se sont présentés dans leur village, et après les avoir dépouillés de tout leur argent, ont déshonoré leurs femmes et filles, parmi lesquelles la fille, âgée de 11 ans, du nommé Moustafa Mehmet Oglou; ils continuent à cerner le susdit vilage et de demander encore de l'argent, en les frappant et les menaçant de les tuer.

Je viens d'apprendre par d'autres personnes, dont la version m'a été confirmée par le vénérable Archevêque Grec, que depuis trois jours les autorités Russes obligent les jeunes habitants de quarante églises à s'inscrire comme militaires dans l'armée Bulgare, et que Samedi les conscrits Bulgares, après leur sortie du conak, sont tombés sur tous les Turcs qu'ils rencontraient sur leurs passages, les battant, déchirant leurs calottes et leurs habits, enfin les maltraitant d'une manière indigne.

Tout cela sans la moindre intervention en leur faveur de la part des autorités Russes.

Le bruit court avec grande persistance depuis quelques jours que les autorités Russes font beaucoup d'enrôlements dans la Roumélie Orientale, et ce qui est plus fort, dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople, et qu'un mouvement révolutionnaire se prépare pour résister partout à l'entrée des Turcs, et réclamer, les armes à la main, leur annexion à la Bulgarie.

Quant à notre ville, rien de nouveau; hier ils ont commencé à inscrire toutes les maisons; pourquoi, je l'ignore.

Nos réfugiés souffrent beaucoup ici, comme vous le savez du reste; et la plus grande partie de ceux qui sont rentrés dans leurs villages, malgré les assurances du Moufti et de M. Fasse, retournent de nouveau ici pour mourir de faim et de mauvais traitements.

No. 499.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 6. Political.) *Varna, August 23, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two despatches I have just addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

The first relates chiefly to the evacuation of Shumla and Varna, which is being carried out as quickly as circumstances will permit.

The second refers to difficulties met with here by the Ottoman authorities as to the tithes and Turkish Government property in Bulgaria.

As to the latter question I clearly perceive that the task of the Ottoman part of the Commission mentioned in Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin will not be an easy one, as I believe the rights of the Porte to much of its property will be contested on the ground that the rents were paid to the different municipalities.

It has always been the custom of the Ottoman Government to assign rents of their property to municipalities and other institutions in place of direct pecuniary subventions, but the titles to the property are not affected thereby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 499.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, August 21, 1878.

Sir,

THE outer forts to the north of this place have been evacuated by the Turks; those to the south have not yet been able to do anything.

The Turkish guns and other war material are being taken to Constantinople with portions of troops as fast as the arrival of transports will allow.

The guns, &c., from Shumla are being brought here by rail as quickly as possible, and it is thought that in about ten days more that place may be entirely evacuated.

From what I see I am of opinion that the total evacuation of Varna will take some time yet. I doubt if another month will suffice, notwithstanding the pressure of the Russians.

With regard to the refugees, it appears that they are now meeting with less difficulties from the Russians, who evidently see that the obstacles they encounter retard the evacuation they are so desirous to have quickly terminated. And I have been told that the Russians themselves say that if assistance had not been afforded to the refugees from the balance kept by me from the Turkish Compassionate Fund, the evacuation of Shumla and Varna would have been greatly prolonged. I am now assisting the destitute refugees here, of whom there are several thousands—the Commission tells me that altogether there are about 10,000—who are being sent back to their villages. I have also some clothing to give to those who are almost naked. The Turkish Commissioner, Sirri Pasha, with the Chief Cadi and Mufti of Rustchuk, all excellent and honest people, are superintending with me the distribution of the money and clothes.

We hear rather less of outrages in the villages; every now and then, however, one is reported. This shows, I think, that the Russians, if willing, can suppress these disorders. They have sent out troops for the purpose, evidently seeing that the evacuation is retarded thereby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 499.

Consul R. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varnä, August 22, 1878.

Sir,

IT appears that difficulties have arisen to the Ottoman authorities here respecting this year's tithes of the districts this side the line of demarcation which the Turks claim, but which, they say, the Russians tell the people not to pay.

Having been consulted on the matter, my advice was to submit the question to the Porte, which could come to an understanding with the Russian Ambassador or General Todleben, and I believe the Vali has done this.

I have also been told that the Bulgars intend to claim as belonging to the local municipalities much property that undoubtedly belongs to the Porte. They already claim the British Consulate and the Ottoman Bank House at Rustchuk (next door), which two houses were, in the time of Midhat Pasha, delivered over to the Government by a certain Nicolaki Effendi of Listov in lieu of a large sum of money he owed for certain tithes which he had purchased, but for which he could not pay.

This question will be decided by the Commission mentioned in Article XII of the Berlin Treaty, but it behoves the Porte to have all their title-deeds in order.

Indeed, I have heard that the Bulgars are already preparing claims to property which they intend to put forward when the time arrives, and about which, if the Commission is limited to Turks and Bulgars, there will be much discussion and difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 500.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 460.) *Athens, August* 23, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 457 of the 21st instant, I reported that three Turkish iron-clad vessels had arrived at Prevesa. From more recent authentic intelligence which I have received, it appears that 4,500 Turkish soldiers arrived at Prevesa on the 15th instant on board three Austrian (Lloyd) steamers from Kleck, and that these vessels were escorted by three Austrian men-of-war.

These vessels remained at anchor at Prevesa during the disembarkation of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 501.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 401.) *Rome, August* 26, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT CORTI informs me that he has appointed Signor Vernoni, First Dragoman at Constantinople, Delegate to the Commission for Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency states that Signor Vernoni has already been furnished with his appointment and instructions, and is ready when called upon to join the Delegates of the other Powers in carrying out the work assigned to them.

His Excellency likewise informs me that the Italian Representatives to the other Commissions prescribed by the Congress have been selected, and are ready to proceed to the place of meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 502.

Mr. Macdonell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 403.) *Rome, August* 26, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the report that M. Cogalniceano, the Roumanian Minister, is about to start on a mission to the principal Cabinets of Europe, Count Corti informed me that the Italian Government are determined to reject any demand or suggestion which the Roumanian Minister may have to put forward for the purpose of modifying the decision of the Congress relative to the emancipation of the Jews or the possession of the fortress of Silistria.

His Excellency stated to me that with regard to these points the Italian Cabinet has decided to adhere strictly to the wording of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 503.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 685.)
Paris, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday afternoon, I asked M. Waddington to-day whether the French Government had received an application from the Porte for a French Commissioner to examine into Turkish finances.

M. Waddington replied that the Turkish Ambassador had made such an application to him, informing him at the same time that a similar application had been made to Her Majesty's Government. He said that the request had taken him somewhat by surprise, and that he had proceeded to put several questions to Aarifi Pasha as to the nature of the Commission, which that Ambassador could not answer without referring to his Government.

M. Waddington told me that, in principle, he had no objection to make, but that he did not intend to move in the matter until he was better informed as to the nature of the Commission; and he begged me to ask your Lordship what the views of Her Majesty's Government were, and, if they agreed to nominate a Commissioner, on what sort of a person, as to rank, &c., their choice would fall.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 504.

Mr. Adams to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 687.)
Paris, August 30, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 659 of the 20th instant, inclosing a copy of a note from M. Waddington to Lord Lyons, and to previous correspondence with respect to the Commissioners to be appointed under the Treaty of Berlin, I learnt to-day from M. Waddington that the following have been appointed by the French Government:—

For the organization of Eastern Roumelia (Article XVIII), Baron de Ring, First Secretary of Embassy at Vienna, as Commissioner, with promotion to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary, and M. Gustave de Coutouly as Commissaire Adjoint. The latter, it may be recollected, was in India at the time of the Prince of Wales' visit.

For the delimitation of Montenegro, M. Colonna Ceccaldi, formerly Consul at Scutari, promoted to the rank of Consul-General.

For the delimitation of Servia, M. Aubaret, learned in the dialects of the adjacent countries. He is also to have the rank of Consul-General.

For the delimitation of Bulgaria, as provided in Article II, the Commandant d'Etat, Major Lemoyne.

M. Scheffer, who is Acting Consul at Rustchuk, is designated as the Delegate, who, by virtue of Article VI, will have to assist the Russian Commissioner, charged with the Provisional Administration of Bulgaria. I understand M. Scheffer is also to have the rank of Consul-General.

M. Waddington said that as yet the only British Commissioners he had heard of as having been appointed were Sir H. Drummond Wolff and the Earl of Donoughmore, and his Excellency begged me to ask your Lordship to cause him to be informed of the names of the other Commissioners, when they have been appointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 505.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 803.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 31, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 800, Grand Vizier informs me that the Sultan has allowed Midhat Pasha to return to Turkey, but not to Constantinople for the present.

No. 506.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 804.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 31, 1878.

WITH reference to the telegram of 29th ultimo [?] from Mr. Gould, Grand Vizier positively states that no band of Albanians such as that mentioned by the Servian Government exists; but that, on the contrary, a band of 5,000 Servians have lately crossed into Turkish territory and were with difficulty driven back.

No. 507.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 805.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 31, 1878.

I HAVE found it impossible to put last paragraph of the declaration you instructed me by your telegram of the 1st instant to exchange with Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs into French in a form which would be accepted by the Porte, and I think on reading it you will perceive the difficulty. Might I substitute following paragraph after "Sovereign rights:" "but will be in fulfilment of the engagement into which the Sultan has entered with Her Majesty's Government for the reform of the administration of his Asiatic provinces," or words to that effect, to which no objection will be made?

No. 508.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 806.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, August 31, 1878.

THE answer to a personal appeal from the Sultan to the Emperor of Russia on behalf of the Mussulman population of Turkish territory occupied by the Russians. The Emperor has replied that he has heard with surprise of the sufferings of the Mahommedans, that he is confident that the Russian civil and military authorities have done their duty in protecting all classes, and that they will continue to do so henceforth. His Majesty adds that the reports received by the Porte on this subject are greatly exaggerated.

No. 509.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, August 31, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Freeman yesterday:—

"Town quiet, but country still disturbed. Austrians sent an expedition to Glasinac, but met no Mahommedan insurgents. These latter said to be in force in the Spreca Valley. Mostar road not yet open.

"Italian Consul Perood left Bracka [*sic*] for Serajevo July 29; not since heard of; believed to have been murdered."

No. 510.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 214.) *Vienna, August* 31, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)
COUNT ANDRASSY positively refuses to admit into the Convention with Turkey a mention of the provisional nature of the occupation of Bosnia, although this had been distinctly declared in the Memorandum he signed at Berlin.
He also withdraws from his promise to permit Turkish flag to be hoisted.

No. 511.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31, 7 P.M.)

(No. 215.) *Vienna, August* 31, 1878, 2·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)
BARON RING, Secretary of the French Embassy, has received the rank of Minister, and is appointed French member of the East Roumelian Commission. He leaves this evening for Paris. Baron Kallay expects to leave for Constantinople the 9th.

No. 512.

Mr. Dering to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 47. Confidential.) *Berlin, August* 31, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)
GERMAN Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day he had received orders from Prince Bismarck, as well as from the Crown Prince, to draw up a Circular to Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, to the effect that Germany, in view of deliberate procrastination of Turkey in carrying out provisions of said Treaty, especially as regarded Greece and Montenegro, could no longer passively submit to see a Treaty disregarded to which she had set her name. She consequently invited the Signatory Powers to unite in assuring the Porte, in identic language, that she was expected by them to carry out the provisions of Treaty without delay. Note will be communicated to your Lordship by Count Münster.

No. 513.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1878, 5·20 P.M.
WITH reference to your telegram No. 796, ascertain, if you can, nature of proposals made by Russia to Porte.

No. 514.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1878, 5·30 P.M.
WITH reference to your telegram No. 798, inform Porte that we have made representations to Austria as to not advancing upon Novi-Bazar, as desired.
But renew our earnest warning that, if they now alienate from themselves the sympathies of the people of Hungary by refusing or delaying to come to terms with Andrassy, they will pay for it dearly when the next crisis comes.

No. 515.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1878, 6·45 P.M.
INFORM Count Andrassy that Porte is very anxious his troops should not at present advance as far as Novi-Bazar, as in that case they may not be able to restrain Albanians. Tell him our information is Albanians are in a condition of much excitement, and that if he can without strategic danger delay his advance to that point it will probably conduce much to cause of peace. Assure him we have done all we could to make Porte meet wishes of Austria.

No. 516.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1024.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1878.
IN compliance with the request of the Grand Vizier, conveyed in your Excellency's telegram No. 798 of the 27th instant, I have urged upon the Austrian Government that they should give orders to stop the advance of their troops on Novi-Bazar.
Your Excellency is authorized to inform the Porte that representations have been made by Her Majesty's Government in this sense, but you should again earnestly warn the Turkish Ministers that if they now alienate the sympathies of the Hungarian people from Turkey by refusing or delaying to come to terms with Count Andrassy as to the occupation of Bosnia, they will have serious reason to regret it whenever a fresh crisis arises in the affairs of the Empire.
I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 517.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1026. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1878.
I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 797 of the 27th instant, that the Sultan has again spoken to you of the difficulty in which the Administration is placed by the penury of the Treasury, and has renewed his application for the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in obtaining a loan.
I have informed you, in reply, that the question of the means of obtaining a loan for the Turkish Government is under serious consideration. The present most serious obstacle to any step for this purpose is the fact that Parliament is in recess for the rest of the year.
I must request your Excellency to be careful not to make use of the information thus given in such a way as to involve Her Majesty's Government in any kind of pledge to render financial assistance to the Porte.
I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 518.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 470.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1878.
THE Porte fears that in the event of the Austrian troops advancing as far as Novi Bazar, it may be unable to restrain the Albanians, and is, therefore, very anxious that this advance should for the present not take place.
From the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, it would appear that the Albanian population is in a state of great excitement, and under these circumstances I should be glad if you would call the attention of Count Andrassy to the anxiety felt by the Porte upon the subject, and point out to his Excellency that

should he be able, without strategic danger, to delay the advance of the Austrian troops to Novi Bazar, it would in all probability conduce much to a peaceful solution of the difficulty.

Your Excellency will not fail to assure Count Andrassy, in making this communication, that Her Majesty's Government have used every effort to induce the Turkish Government to meet the wishes of Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 519.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 312.)
Foreign Office, August 31, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 399, Confidential, of the 23rd instant, reporting a conversation which you had with the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, upon the subject of the attitude of the Greek Government towards Turkey with regard to the question of the rectification of the frontiers; and I have to express to you my approval of the language employed by you on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.